FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Middle East & North Africa

Vol V No 41 *1 March 1978*

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

'Arafat Addresses Palestinian Military Classes [VOP]	A 1	1/A7
TANJUG: 'Arafat Publicly Criticizes As-Sadat	A 2	1/A8
WAFA Quotes 'Arafat as Denouncing As-Sadat	A 2	1/A8
VOP Hits Egyptian Actions Against Palestinians	A 2	1/A8
Paper Says PLO Refuses To Meet With Atherton	A 3	1/A9
PLO Executive Committee Meets Under 'Arafat [VOP]	A 4	1/A10
'Arafat, Lebanese Make Visit to S. Lebanon [VOP]	A 4	1/A10
PFLP Spokesman: Summit To Be Held in Baghdad	A 4	1/A10
VOP Reports Upcoming 'Arafat Trip to GDR	A 5	1/A11
'Arafat Sends Cable to WFDY Meeting in Berlin [VOP]	A 5	1/A11
VOP: Arab Agent of Israeli Intelligence Executed	A 5	1/A11

ARABIAN PENINSULA

KUWAIT

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM Comments on U.S. Arms for Egypt [26 Feb 78]	C 1	1/A12
Officials Express Concern on Position of Dollar	C 2	1/A13
Official Denies Presence of Baader-Meinhoff Members	C 2	1/A13

QATAR

Information Minister Talks About Radio Development	C 3	1/A14

SAUDI ARABIA

Kuwaiti Paper Cites Saudi Personality on F-15 Deal	C 3	1/A14
Talks Held by King Khalid, Sudan's Numayri	C 3	1/A14
Official Reports on Talks	C 4	1/B1
Numayri Comments Reported	C 4	1/B1
King Khalid Receives Syrian Presidential Adviser	C 4	1/B1
Republic of China Finance Minister Received [CNA]	C 5	1/B2

YEMEN--YAR

Foreign Minister Denies Israel Occupied Perim Island	C 5	1/B2

EGYPT

Kamil Talks With U.S. Assistant Secretary of State	D 1	1/B3
Israeli Plan Conveyed	D 1	1/B3
Comments by Kamil, Atherton	D 1	1/B3

Atherton, Kamil Press Conference	D	1	1/B3
Al-Jamasi Attends Maneuvers, Addresses Pilots	D	3	1/B5
Interior Minister Comments on Hostile Plans	D	4	1/B6
Officials To Attend Terrorists Trial in Cyprus	D	5	1/B7
Vice President Mubarak Returns From Rabat	D	5	1/B7
Mubarak Reports to As-Sadat	D	6	1/B8
Source Comments on Visit	D	6	1/B8
Salim Meets With Sudanese Vice President at-Tahir	D	6	1/B8
Statement on Integration Talks	D	6	1/B8
Yugoslav President Sends Message to As-Sadat	D	7	1/B9
Yugoslav Ambassador Meets Kamil, Comments on Cyprus	D	8	1/B10
Prime Minister Receives Greek Ambassador	D	8	1/B10
Foreign Minister Receives Italian Ambassador	D	8	1/B10
As-Sadat Tours Suez Canal, Inspects Canal Work	D	8	1/B10
Cairo Reports U.S.-Egyptian Loan Agreement	D	8	1/B10
IRAQ			
French Presidential Adviser Meets With Officials	E	1	1/B11
Concludes Visit	E	1	1/B11
Iranian Foreign Minister Arrives in Baghdad	E	1	1/B11
Meetings Begin	E	2	1/B12
Indian Air Force Commander Arrives in Baghdad	E	2	1/B12
Received by Al-Bakr	E	2	1/B12
Indian-Iraqi Friendship Delegation Arrives in Baghdad	E	2	1/B12
Received by Ba'th Official	E	3	1/B13
Somali Official in Baghdad for Talks on Horn	E	3	1/B13
Delivers Message to Al-Bakr	E	3	1/B13
Concludes Visit	E	3	1/B13
Minister Describes Oil as Effective Economic Weapon	E	4	1/B14
Describes Oil Plans	E	4	1/B14
Arab Writers Call for Striking at Imperialist Interests	E	5	1/C1
Christians Refute Reports on Religious Persecution	E	6	1/C2
JORDAN			
AD-DUSTUR Criticizes Egypt for Anti-Palestinian Measures [1 Mar 78]	F	1	1/C3
AR-RA'Y on Jordan's Position on Peace Talks [27 Feb 78]	F	2	1/C4
Regent Receives Text of Somali President's Cable	F	2	1/C4
UNESCO Committee for Occupied Arab Territories Received	F	3	1/C5
Crown Prince Hasan Receives U.S. Municipal Delegation	F	3	1/C5
Algerian Ambassador to Lebanon Leaves Amman After Talks	F	3	1/C5
Commander in Chief Speaks on Jordanian-Spanish Friendship	F	3	1/C5
LEBANON			
Lebanese Front Hears Aims of Parliamentary Maronite Bloc	G	1	1/C6
Foreign Minister Butrus Leaves Beirut for Damascus	G	1	1/C6
AS-SAFIR Suspended for 2 Days for Censorship Violation	G	1	1/C6
SYRIA			
Fu'ad Butrus Arrives in Damascus, Meets With Khaddam	H	1	1/C7
Received by Al-Asad	H	1	1/C7

Military Delegation's Arrival in Moscow Reported	H 1	1/C7
SED Delegation Arrives in Damascus for 4-Day Visit	H 1	1/C7
Begin Talks	H 2	1/C8
Radio Assails Anti-Palestinian Actions of As-Sadat	H 2	1/C8
President Al-Asad Receives FRG Parliamentary Delegation	H 3	1/C9
Received by Assembly Speaker	H 4	1/C10
Received by Foreign Minister	H 4	1/C10
Economy Minister Receives Cuban Delegation	H 4	1/C10
Presidential Envoy Leaves for Gulf With Messages	H 4	1/C10

NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA

Scientific Protocol Signed With Soviets	I 1	1/C11
Cuban Deputy Foreign Minister Concludes Visit	I 1	1/C11

LIBYA

Al-Qadhdhafi, Siad Barre Hold Closed Session	I 1	1/C11

TUNISIA

Nouira Speaks on Economic Development, Arab Cooperation [L'ACTION 21 Feb 76]	I 1	1/C11
Nouira Gives Madrid Paper Interview on Recent Crisis [Madrid ABC 24 Feb 78]	I 4	1/C14
L'ACTION Criticizes Opposition to Bourguiba Government [23 Feb 78]	I 6	1/D2
ICFTU Leader Visits Achour, Urges Fair Trial [Brussels LE SOIR 24 Feb 78]	I 7	1/D3

ISRAEL

Egypt Said To Inform Israel It Is Not Ready for Direct Talks	N 1	1/D4
Atherton Mission Said on Brink of Failure	N 1	1/D4
Dayan: Israel Accepts Carter's Formulation on Palestinians	N 1	1/D4
Begin Calls for Renewal of Negotiations	N 2	1/D5
Press Criticizes Government Negotiating Positions	N 2	1/D5
Begin Stand on 242 Seen as Crux of Talks Deadlock [POST 1 Mar 78]	N 2	1/D5
Rabin Criticizes Begin Negotiation Positions [HAMODI'A 27 Feb 78]	N 4	1/D7
Herzog Comments on Slowdown in Momentum	N 5	1/D8
Dayan Says 'No New Settlements Set Up' in W. Bank [DAVAR 1 Mar 78]	N 5	1/D8
Weizman Will Reconsider Shilo Unless Archeological Work Starts	N 6	1/D9
Minister Landau Discusses Settlements, Other Issues	N 6	1/D9
Liberal Party Criticizes Sharon Settlements Policy	N 7	1/D10
Weizman To Discuss Procurement Requests in Washington [DAVAR 28 Feb 78]	N 8	1/D11
Husayn Would Respect West Bank Referendum Results [HAMODI'A 27 Feb 78]	N 8	1/D11
Cabinet Submits Supplementary Budget for Approval	N 8	1/D11
No Money in Defense Budget for New Fighter Development	N 9	1/D12
Begin Comments on Meeting With UK Foreign Secretary	N 9	1/D12
Owen Press Conference Reported	N 10	1/D13
Owen on Begin: 'I Can't Stand That Man' [DAVAR 28 Feb 78]	N 10	1/D13
UK Embassy Denies Reported Remarks	N 10	1/D13

Moshavim Movement Discusses Leaving Labor Party N 11 1/D14
[HA'AREZ 26 Feb 78]
Leaders Deny Plans N 11 1/D14
Two Killed, Several Injured in Tel Aviv Explosion N 11 1/D14

SOUTH ASIA

AFGHANISTAN

President Daud Pays Official Visit to Yugoslavia [cross-reference] S 1 1/E1

BANGLADESH

Zia To Begin Official Visit to UAE 6 March S 1 1/E1
Presidential Adviser Leaves for Nepal Visit S 1 1/E1
PRC Friendship Delegation Arrives in Dacca S 1 1/E1
New Bangladesh Party Announces Manifesto S 2 1/E2

INDIA

Final Karnataka Assembly Election Results Reported S 2 1/E2
Press Comments S 2 1/E2
Reddy Resigns S 3 1/E3
Congress Meets S 3 1/E3

NEPAL

Bangladesh Adviser for Water Resources Arrives S 3 1/E3
Indian Delegation Arrives in Katmandu for Trade Talks S 4 1/E4

PAKISTAN

Martial Law Regulations on Elections Issued S 4 1/E4
Arrests Reported S 5 1/E5
Briefs: Soviet Construction Experts S 5 1/E5

SRI LANKA

TULF Leader Threatened; Party Alters Charter S 6 1/E6
Briefs: Colombo Plan Council President S 6 1/E6

MAR 1 0 1978

I 1.41:556-8-6 Pr Ex 7.10: FBIS-MEA-78-41

FBIS-MEA-78-41
Wednesday
1 March 1978
Vol V No 41

DAILY REPORT

COMPLETED
ORIGINAL

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

Available for Distribution
From NTIS

FBIS FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

This publication contains current news and commentary monitored by FBIS from foreign broadcasts, news agency transmissions, newspapers, and periodicals. Items are processed from the first or best available source; it should not be inferred that they have been disseminated only in the medium, in the language, or to the area indicated. Items from foreign-language sources are translated by FBIS. Those from English-language sources are transcribed, with the original phrasing and other characteristics retained.

Headlines, editorial reports, and material enclosed in brackets [ ] are supplied by FBIS. Labels such as [Text] or [Excerpts] in the first line of each item indicate how FBIS processed the information from the original. Names rendered phonetically or in transliteration are enclosed in parentheses. Words or names preceded by a question mark and enclosed in parentheses were not clearly heard but have been supplied as appropriate to the context. Other unattributed parenthetical notes within the body of an item originate with the source. Times within items are as given by the source.

Users of this publication may cite FBIS provided they do so in a manner clearly identifying it as the secondary source. For example: "FBIS reports that Radio Moscow announced . . ." or "FBIS has monitored a broadcast from Hanoi which says . . ."

This is a U.S. Government publication. Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

'ARAFAT ADDRESSES PALESTINIAN MILITARY CLASSES

JN281620Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1400 GMT 28 Feb 78 JN

[Excerpts] Brothers: under the auspices of brother leader Abu 'Ammar, three specialized training classes have been opened. The first is the class of martyr 'Abduh Hamadan for company commanders. The second is the class of martyr Ahmad Abu Ghazalah for antiarmor weapons. The third is the class of martyr Sa'd Jaradat for field engineering. The classes are under the supervision of the training directorate of the Al-'Asifn forces general command. The three training classes were attended by many cadres of the Palestinian revolution. Brother Abu 'Ammar made a speech at the opening of these classes. The following is a recording of brother Abu 'Ammar's speech: [begin recording]

Brothers: Such days and occasions are important because they mean that this revolution with its genuine presence alongside the Lebanese nationalist movement is proceeding strongly on its way. It is proceeding on its way with all firmness and with all the loftiness and pride manifested in you--you who carry the guns in this Arab nation--to tell Carter, Begin and the agents here in the Arab area that there will be no conciliation, no capitulation, but a revolution and struggle until victory is achieved. [applause]

Brothers, U.S. imperialism thought that in Vietnam with 3,000 planes, as a U.S. military commander said, we will destroy the Vietnamese revolution. But what happened? Peasants raised by Ho Chi Minh forced the U.S. ambassador to flee by a helicopter [words indistinct]. I am sure, as sure as I see you in front of my eyes, that a cub in this Palestinian revolution will raise the flag of his Arab nation sooner or later above Jerusalem and will tell the U.S. ambassador and others: Go, this land is Arab, Arab and Arab. [applause]

Palestinian-Lebanese cohesion will make new history for the Arab nation. This steadfastness represented by the Tripoli conference and the Algiers conference does not represent the meeting of five sides, but is a current sweeping along within our Arab nation. It is sweeping along there within the beloved peoples of Egypt, Sudan, Morocco and the Arab Gulf. This is the sweeping current represented by the two summits of steadfastness in Tripoli and Algiers. Therefore, we mean what we say when we say that this revolution is not a revolution of a people, but is a revolution of a nation rallying behind this revolution.

Brothers, we are not alone. Supporting us are all free men throughout the world. This revolution is not the revolution of a people, but represents the march of free men throughout the world. [applause] It is a vanguard of liberation. It is Arab and Palestinian, Lebanese and international. Thus, the revolution which you belong to has deep roots, and this Palestinian-Lebanese cohesion has had the greatest revolutionary impact on our nation in this age.

Brothers, the road is difficult, thorny and long. The plot being concocted is big. Some of those who call themselves Arabs have plotted against us. They have threatened us. But they know that no one can threaten the Palestinian revolution. [applause] I say this so that everyone can heap. This Palestinian revolution cannot be threatened but can threaten. It can threaten anyone who tries to tamper with the future of the Arab nation, whether he is big or small. We represent the loftiness and pride of our nation. No one can threaten us. Let those hear this who think they are big, when in fact they are small and pygmies compared with the Palestinian revolution. [applause]

As I have said, the Palestinian revolution is the struggle identity of our nation in this age. I repeat this so that everyone can hear. Let those who are manipulated by Carter and Carter's friends hear this. We are not afraid of the masters or of those who are manipulated by the masters. This must be known. [applause] [end recording]

TANJUG: 'ARAFAT PUBLICLY CRITICIZES AS-SADAT

LD2514402 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1303 GMT 25 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Beirut, February 25 (TANJUG)--For the first time, Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat has publicly and by name accused Egyptian President as-Sadat of allegedly attempting to achieve an "imperialist-Zionist peace in the Middle East." The Egyptian president, he alleged, is trying to ignore the Palestinian problem in seeking a separate peace with Israel. Speaking at a meeting of Palestinian political cadres, 'Arafat charged President as-Sadat with "attempting to kindle hatred in the Egyptian people toward the Palestinians."

Accusing Israeli Prime Minister Begin of demanding an unconditional Arab surrender, 'Arafat said that "there will be no peace and stability in the Middle East until the problem of the Palestinian people, led by the Palestine Liberation Organization, has justly been solved."

WAFA QUOTES 'ARAFAT AS DENOUNCING AS-SADAT

JN2506442 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 25 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, has stated that As-Sadat is infusing hatred and spite and spreading deception in the hearts of the Egyptian Arab people against the Palestinian people. WAFA has quoted 'Arafat as saying that As-Sadat's threats aim at deceiving the Egyptian people to justify the conclusion of a separate agreement with the Zionist entity. He further stated that As-Sadat's crime is also aimed at bringing the American octopus back into our region and trying to impose a U.S.-Zionist settlement on our nation.

VOP HITS EGYPTIAN ACTIONS AGAINST PALESTINIANS

JN2820292 Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1520 GMT 28 Feb 78 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpt] The Egyptian regime's prime minister, Mamduh Salim, has announced that his government has stripped the Palestinians residing in the Arab Republic of Egypt of the rights they have enjoyed for 20 years. The government of Mamduh Salim has [word indistinct] this suspicious stand as part of a black campaign of instigation against the Palestinian people and their cause and revolution. This campaign reached its peak when Egyptian intelligence blared out jeers of total enmity against the Palestinian people and the Palestinian cause, like, for instance, "no Palestine after today." At the same time feverish voices have been raised from the rostrums of Egyptian propaganda calling for putting these black slogans [words indistinct] to take revenge on the Palestinian people for a crime they have not committed and punishment for an imaginary crime the Palestinian people have acquitted themselves of and denounced through a clear and defined stand announced by the PLO before the whole world.

Mamduh Salim's announcement stripping the Palestinians of the rights granted to them by the great Egyptian people, which were consecrated for them with all nobility and generosity by the immortal leader Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir, is new evidence the Egyptian regime brandishes for its masters in Washington and Tel Aviv to prove to them that this regime has not only stabbed the Palestinian cause and its sons in the back and relinquished its pan-Arab duty toward the Palestinian issue and the struggle of its people, but also, and above all, has placed itself in a position of blatant hostility against the Palestinains and against their most basic rights, imposing on our people a new type of mass punishment similar to that of the Nazis. It is the same position occupied by the Zionist enemy, through which it resorts to the ugliest racist immoral practices.

We do not want to ask what the Palestinians have done in Egypt to be faced by this heinous attitude of Mamduh Salim. All people know that the Palestinian--whether he has been forced by the disaster to reside in Egypt or to live among his brothers in the Arab world or who remained under the powers of the Zionist enemy--this Palestinian carries for Egypt and its people nothing but the purest and sincerest feelings of love, fraternity and affiliation. He has been a soldier in the heart of all the battles Egypt and the Arab nation have waged, fighting side by side with the soldiers of Egypt and [word indistinct] his blood with that of his brotherly Egyptians on the sands of Sinai and the banks of the Suez. He is also one of the most prominent builders of prosperity, civilization and progress in the Arab world from the ocean to the gulf.

We are surprised and shamed when we see that Mamduh Salim has at last found nothing he could do against the people of Palestine except robbing them of basic rights gained as a result of the worst pan-Arab catastrophe to strike the Arab nation in this epoch. History tells us that it is a catastrophe for which the followers of Mamduh Salim bear the greater share of responsibility, both for its occurrence and for its continuation for 30 years.

It is a great surprise, indeed, that Mamduh Salim raises the slogan of no Palestine after today and takes only a few days before he has put it into practice with precision, skill and efficiency. Meanwhile, the slogan of no freedom for Egypt without Palestine, which was raised by the Egyptian people and blared out in the darkest hours and hardest days, has become during the time of Mamduh Salim and [word indistinct] postponed until further notice, if not already sold at cheapest prices on the tables of humiliation in Jerusalem, Washington and Ismailia.

We are certain that the decisions of Mamduh Salim, which seriously harm our Palestinian people in and out of Egypt, will not kill our people nor hamper their strong and sincere determination to continue struggle and confrontation. We are also certain that Mamduh Salim's recent decisions may be a new source of challenge to be added to the total of bigger challenges the Egyptian regime has participated in putting before our great revolutionary march.

PAPER SAYS PLO REFUSES TO MEET WITH ATHERTON

NC0109152 Doha QNA in Arabic 0753 GMT 1 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Doha, 1 March--In statements published today by the Qatari paper AL-'ARAB, Palestinian sources reveal that the PLO has rejected an American request to have a Palestinian official meet with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Alfred Atherton, who is currently touring a number of Arab states.

These sources, which the paper describes as well informed, say that Atherton wanted to ascertain the PLO attitude toward the current political developments, that the American request came in the wake of Syria's refusal to receive the American official and that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat had turned down such a meeting because there is no basis for it and because it represents an attempt to circumvent the unity of the steadfastness and resistance front.

The Qatari paper quotes the same sources as saying that the PLO will not make any political move divorced from the stand of the steadfastness front and that the PLO considers the American shuttle move as an attempt to divide the Arab issue, something the PLO rejects.

PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETS UNDER 'ARAFAT

JN271650Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1500 GMT 27 Feb 78 JN

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee held a long meeting last night under brother Abu 'Ammar, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces. The radio correspondent has learned that the meeting dealt with the latest developments of the current situation in the region.

'ARAFAT, LEBANESE MAKE VISIT TO S. LEBANON

JN261642Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1510 GMT 26 Feb 78 JN

[Text] At the head of a joint committee of the Lebanese nationalist movement and the Palestinian revolution, Abu 'Ammar, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, yesterday made a visit to the south which included Sidon, Tyre and An-Nabatiyah. The visit was aimed at following up the implementation of the decisions adopted at the previous meetingson providing security and reassurance for the south, pursuing the violators and following up on the speedy implementation of other measures.

The joint committee of the Lebanese nationalist movement and the Palestinian revolution included Muhsin Ibrahim, [name indistinct], Musa as-Sa'id, Samir Sabbagh, Abu Jihad, 'Abd ar-Rahim Ahmad, Staff Brig Gen Sa'd Sayil and [name indistinct]. The committee met in Sidon, Tyre and An-Nabatiyah with the leaders of the Lebanese nationalist movement, the revolution command in the south and the branch commands.

The radio correspondent has learned that most of the decisions taken in the previous meetings have been implemented and a 48-hour notice has been given to complete the implementation of remaining decisions.

PFLP SPOKESMAN: SUMMIT TO BE HELD IN BAGHDAD

NC280843Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0808 GMT 28 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 28 February--Bassam Abu Sharif, the official spokesman of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], has stated that the Arab steadfastness front will hold a summit conference in Baghdad in the near future. In an interview published today by the Kuwaiti paper AL-QABAS, Abu Sharif expresses the readiness of the PFLP and the Palestinian rejectionist groups to participate in the activities of the PLO Executive Committee and Central Council provided the PLO accepts the document the Palestinian organizations issued in Tripoli as a basis for the PLO political, executive and military programs.

Abu Sharif also expresses his belief that the present quiet in Lebanon will not last because some groups which have undergone special training in occupied Palestine will carry out political assassinations of some leaders of the Palestinian resistance and the national movement in Lebanon.

VOP REPORTS UPCOMING 'ARAFAT TRIP TO GDR

JN281515Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1500 GMT 28 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, yesterday received the GDR ambassador in Beirut. The radio correspondent has learned that the ambassador conveyed to Abu 'Ammar an official invitation to visit the GDR and the welcome of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany for the visit the brother leader will pay to the GDR at the beginning of next month.

'ARAFAT SENDS CABLE TO WFDY MEETING IN BERLIN

JN281710Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1500 GMT 28 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, has sent a cable to the meeting of the WFDY in Berlin. The following is the text of the cable:

The convening of your meeting at a time when the democratic youth movement is growing in its struggle against worldwide imperialism and at a time when the unity and cooperation of the popular and progressive organizations all over the world are increasing and getting stronger constitutes a big contribution in supporting the peoples struggling against world imperialism and colonialism for their liberation, independence and progress.

Your federation has always supported our Palestinian struggling youth and our just cause. We are confident of your continued support for us and for the revolution of our people for the restoration of our legitimate rights in our occupied territories. I wish you success at your meeting, which will be in the interest of the world democratic and progressive movement as well as the struggle of all peoples for liberation and independence.

VOP: ARAB AGENT OF ISRAELI INTELLIGENCE EXECUTED

JN281538Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1500 GMT 28 Feb 78 JN

[Text] This morning the agent defendant Salim Husayn Qasim, who was linked to and recruited by the Israeli intelligence in Paris in mid-1972, was executed by firing squad.

The above-mentioned agent had collected information about the Palestinian revolution, its leaders and institutions. He was also entrusted by the Israeli intelligence with observing and reporting on the activities of martyr Mahmud al-Hamshari, representative of the Palestinian revolution in Paris at that time. The defendant used to constantly frequent the Israeli Embassy in Paris and meet with the intelligence officers of the Zionist enemy to deliver information about the martyr. This helped the Israelis to carry out their crime of assassinating Mahmud al-Hamshari.

KUWAIT

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM COMMENTS ON U.S. ARMS FOR EGYPT

LD281806Y Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 26 Feb 78 pp 1, 19 LD

[Editorial: "Breaking Arms Monopoly"]

[Text] Certainly Cairo would have said the same thing against Syria and would have made the same accusations and even more had Damascus been the party that went to Washington and handed over to it complete control of the problem, as the Egyptian authorities did.

Cairo, unfortunately, is extremely annoyed because Syria is acquiring arms. Therefore it uses every opportunity--newspaper, radio and television--to distort the significance of arms in the hands of Syria. Arms in the hands of Egypt represent strength and manliness, but in the hands of others it is servitude, weakness and defeat. In other words Cairo asks: Who are those Arabs who dare to carry arms without our permission?

At the same time we Arabs must consider Cairo's acquiring of 50 U.S. 10th-rate planes--by the admission of the Egyptian president himself--a splendid action. We must, of course, also consider the United States "the great and sincere friend" because it gave Cairo these obsolete planes and a few hundred million pounds and because it sent Egypt telegrams supporting its miserable operation in Cyprus. This is the kind of friendship that Cairo wants to force all the Arabs to accept; otherwise they are considered renegades, lackeys and blasphemers.

Cairo also revealed to us a new secret: According to the recent issue of the OCTOBER magazine (to be published tomorrow), King Husayn was about to enter the 1973 war but Cairo brought pressure on him not to do so and advised him to be content with sending an armored brigade to the Golan. This was exactly what happened then. This then was the Jordanian front, and Israel therefore was able--after the Egyptian Army stopped its advance on the east bank of the Suez Canal--to concentrate all its forces against the Golan.

Of course, any military expert knows what it would have meant to open the Jordanian front in that war in addition to the Sinai and Golan fronts. But Cairo is vexed by Syria and by all those who question it. You are a darling and "very sweet" as long as you say to Cairo: Ready, yes, at your service and so on and so forth.

Therefore, according to Cairo logic, all the Arabs must go with it to Jerusalem to proclaim it the capital of Israel since Egypt is going there. They must also "harness their horses and beat their drums" in appreciation for the United States because it has given Cairo (God protect us?) 50 F-5 planes which are considered as "scrap" in the U.S. forces depots. But Cairo has very bravely accepted these planes and, in fact, considered it a great victory and a new crossing--this time to the heart of the United States, the "darling of all" nowadays.

Also, Cairo is speaking seriously and with conviction that the Americans now side with us. The proof is that, first, they have given it 50 planes and, second, they have "condemned" Israel's hard line on the question of settlements, and their papers have written about Begin's "intransigence" in contrast with Egypt's "flexibility."

But even supposing that this is true, why are the Americans siding with us?

Is there a bigger price to pay--if there are any more prices left to be paid--to the United States in return for this "change"? And has it not sided "with us" only after we gave it and its darling Israel everything?

And yet is is "with us" only within the concept of the Egyptian political dictionary. Otherwise, in everybody else's dictionary it is still the most tyrranical "friend" and the most dangerous and harmful; it is dividing Arab ranks and undermining Arab capabilities whether in Arab solidarity or in oil. It is also surrounding the Arab area with a circle of flames, wars and tensions. And finally it is entangling Cairo in the illusion of its support while it is working against it and pushing it toward new wars that will exhaust its capabilities and squander its resources.

Cairo is being given weapons to support Somalia while the United States is giving weapons in support of Ethiopia, the country committing aggression against Somalia.

Also, the United States, through the utterances of President Carter--the great defender of human rights--and the statements of the U.S. secretary of defense--is threatening the Arab oil countries with war and enmity if they dare play their national role of defending the Arab cause and the Palestinian people's rights. These oil countries, as Cairo knows, have given Egypt $13 billion in 4 years and are still giving.

Nevertheless, Cairo wants us to reverse our minds and to consider the United States a friend simply because it wants it so.

OFFICIALS EXPRESS CONCERN ON POSITION OF DOLLAR

LD011026Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 1 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-'Adhbi made a statement to our radio and television correspondent after his meeting this morning with his highness the amir. He said that the amir had shown anxiety concerning the present position of the U.S. dollar and the consequences of this on income of the oil-exporting countries. The minister added that the amir had told him that it was possible, in the event of the present position of the dollar continuing, that Kuwait would ask for an extraordinary meeting of the oil and finance ministers of OPEC member states to look into the position of the dollar and to discuss the question of continuing the freezing of oil prices.

OFFICIAL DENIES PRESENCE OF BAADER-MEINHOFF MEMBERS

NC281345Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1300 GMT 28 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 28 February--Maj Gen 'Abd al-Latif ath-Thuwayni, the under secretary of the Kuwaiti Interior Ministry, has denied the presence of any members of the German Red Army group--Baader-Meinhoff--in Kuwait.

In a statement today, Major General ath-Thuwayni also denied reports that West Germany has requested the Kuwaiti Government to allow members of the German security force to search for terrorists suspected of being in Kuwait. Ath-Thuwayni said that Kuwait does not help, cooperate with or shelter any terrorists, that it is against all forms of crime and that it cannot help any criminals.

The West German News Agency DPA reported yesterday that three armed members of the German Baader-Meinhoff Red Army group are now in Baghdad and Kuwait and that the governments of the two countries have given feeble excuses to prevent Western security men from searching for the terrorists suspected of being in these countries.

QATAR

INFORMATION MINISTER TALKS ABOUT RADIO DEVELOPMENT

NC2811502 Doha QNA in Arabic 1930 GMT 27 Feb 78 NC

[Excerpts] Cairo, 27 February--In a statement published in the Egyptian newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH today, Qatari Information Minister 'Isa al-Kuwari said that a 750-kilowatt transmitter has been set up and that work is proceeding to set up another 750-kilowatt transmitter which will begin transmitting on the 10th anniversary of the Qatari radio in June. Al-Kuwari pointed out that, in addition to this, there is the greater Doha project which will cost 20 million Qatari rials. Its transmission will cover the entire Middle East area by virtue of an antenna, the first of its kind in the world, known as (?Bagy) system.

SAUDI ARABIA

KUWAITI PAPER CITES SAUDI PERSONALITY ON F-15 DEAL

NC0109002 Doha QNA in Arabic 0822 GMT 1 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 1 March--The Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS today quotes a high-ranking Saudi personality in Washington as saying that the United States will conclude the F-15 aircraft deal with Saudi Arabia despite the big uproar raised by Zionism about it.

The Saudi personality, whose name is not disclosed by the newspaper, added that there is a strong conviction on the part of many U.S. officials that the sale of these aircraft to Saudi Arabia will contribute to the stability of the area and to the defense of Saudi Arabia, particularly its oilfields and oil installations. The Saudi personality explained that the penetration of communist influence in Africa and the proximity of Africa to the Arabian Peninsula have made U.S. officials aware of the importance of the Saudi role in world strategy. In selling these aircraft to Saudi Arabi, the United States would thus be serving its own interests as well.

The Saudi personality noted that the British Lightning aircraft currently being used in Saudi Arabia are more complicated that the F-15's. Nevertheless, these aircraft have been assimilated by the Saudis. Moreover, it will be at least 2 years before Saudi Arabia will receive the F-15's. This is a sufficient reply to Zionist allegations about the inability of the Saudis to use this type of aircraft.

TALKS HELD BY KING KHALID, SUDAN'S NUMAYRI

LD2122182 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Feb 78 LD

[Excerpt] Official talks between King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and the Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri began at 1700 today at the guest palace in Nasiriyah. Attending the talks on the Saudi side were Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince and deputy prime minister; 'Abdullah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard; Shaykh 'Abd ar-Rahman [name indistinct], undersecretary for [word indistinct] affairs in the Foreign Ministry; and ('Arafat Tammi), and the Saudi ambassador to Sudan.

On the Sudanese side were Dr Baha ad-Din Muhammad Idris, minister of state for presidential affairs; Muhmammad Mahjub Sulayman, the president's adviser; and Fatih Disharah, Sudanese ambassador to the kingdom.

The SAUDI NEWS AGENCY has learned that the talks dealt with the situation in the Middle East and bilateral relations.

Official Reports on Talks

LD212224Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 21 Feb 78 LD

[Text] 'Abd ar-Rahim Mansuri, undersecretary at the Foreign Ministry for political affairs, has stated that President Numayri's current visit to King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz falls within the framework of the policy of constant consultation between the two Arab leaders and of the constant exchange of views between the two sister countries. Shaykh Mansuri told SANA at the end of his majesty's meeting with President Numayri that the two leaders reviewed the current Arab situation with regard to the Middle East problem and followed up the developments of this problem with regard to the conflict in the Horn of Africa and the gravity of the situation there. In addition they discussed bilateral relations and matters of common concern. He added that viewpoints were identical, as it is always the case between the kingdom and Sudan. This is natural since the two countries' policy always proceeds from the demands of the Arab interest and aim at the realization of prosperity and good for the entire Arab nation.

Numayri Comments Reported

LD231232Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 Feb 78 LD

[Excerpt] His excellency the president of Sudan, Ja'far Numayri, has asserted that the current conflict in the Horn of Africa had exposed communist designs to enter the region directly. He said that what was happening in the Horn of Africa was a direct and grave invasion and that the Soviet presence represents a threat to the entire region.

In a statement published today by both AR-RIYAD and AL-JAZIRAH, he said that his country was mediating between Somalia and Ethiopia and added that we expect positive results soon to solve the differences that have erupted in the Horn of Africa through dialog among all parties, thus removing the Soviet danger from the Horn of Africa. In his statements President Ja'far Numayri added that his country was currently active in the Arab arena with a view to strengthening the Arab role and restoring Arab solidarity so that this solidarity could contribute to the liberation of the land and the restoration of the right of the Palestinian people. President Numayri said Sudan always takes into consideration the lesson of the great Ramadan war, when victory was only achieved through Arab unity and solidarity.

Speaking about his visit to the kingdom, the Sudanese president said that this visit falls within the framework of constant consultations between the two countries, the situation in the region of the Horn of Africa, and the state of the current Arab situation. He described his talks with HM King Khalid and with the crown prince as successful and fruitful.

KING KHALID RECEIVES SYRIAN PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER

LD281852Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 Feb 78 LD

[Text] At 1800 today His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz received at his office in Al-Ma'dar Palace Mr 'Adib al-Daudi, the adviser of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

Present at the meeting were His Royal Highness 'Abudllah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard, and His Royal Highness Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, defense and aviation minister. Mr Daudi is due to leave Riyadh for Kuwait tomorrow morning at the end of his mission in the kingdom.

He stated that his mission during his visit to a number of gulf countries is an extension of his mission in the kingdom. He will be delivering messages to the heads of these states from President Hafiz al-Asad in connection with the current Middle East situation. His visit to the kingdom, he added, falls within the constant consultations between His Majesty King Khalid and President al-Asad, which are indicative of the firm brotherly relations between the two sister countries. He stressed the importance of consultation between the two countries especially in the circumstances through which the Arab nation is passing.

REPUBLIC OF CHINA FINANCE MINISTER RECEIVED

OW261459Y Taipei CNA in English 1338 GMT 26 Feb 78 OW

[Excerpts] Riyadh, Feb 25 (CNA)--King Khalid of Saudi Arabia Saturday expressed his appreciation for the Republic of China's cooperation in agricultural, industrial and construction fields. The king Saturday afternoon received visiting Chinese Finance Minister Walter Fei and his party at his palace. He expressed the belief that the republic has done its best to assist the kingdom in developing its economy.

Fei first conveyed to the king President Yen Chia-kan's and Premier Chiang Ching-kuo's best regards. He said President Yen appreciates the hospitality extended to him during his visit to the kingdom last year and hopes the king will visit his country whenever it is convenient to him. The king said he still has a good memory of the visit and he will pay a visit to the Republic of China at an appropriate time in the future.

Fei also expressed the Chinese Government's appreciation for the Saudi Government's support. He said Premier Chiang has reiterated the Chinese Government's stand that all ministries concerned should do whatever they can to take part in Saudi Arabia's development projects.

Also present at the audience were Muhammad Aba al-Khayl, minister of finance and national economy, Chinese Ambassador Hsueh Yu-chi and Fei's party of three. Fei arrived in the kingdom last Thursday for a week-long visit for talks with Saudi officials on strengthening financial and banking cooperation.

YEMEN--YAR

FOREIGN MINISTER DENIES ISRAEL OCCUPIED PERIM ISLAND

NC010925Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0833 GMT 1 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Riyadh, 1 March--YAR Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Asnaj has denied that Israel has occupied Perim Island at the entrance to the Red Sea. He said there are Israeli moves on the strip of the eastern coast of the Red Sea and that Israel covets the acquisition of important strategic settlements south of the Red Sea. In a statement published today by the Saudi paper AR-RIYAD, the Yemeni minister said that his country has asked the Arab states to provide the necessary capacities to confront this Israeli danger and establish a line of defense for this strategic area.

KAMIL TALKS WITH U.S. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE

NC281245Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1228 GMT 28 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 28 February--The talks between Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil and U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Alfred Atherton began at 1400 today. The discussions were attended on the Egyptian side by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali and on the American side by U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Hermann Eilts and Atherton's adviser David Korn.

Israeli Plan Conveyed

NC010650Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0620 GMT 1 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 1 March--Al-AHRAM reports today that U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Alfred Atherton has briefed Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil on Israel's remarks on the Egyptian plan and explained to him the gist of the Israeli plan. The American envoy last night conveyed the written text of the Israeli plan. Egypt has prepared its written reply, which the American envoy will take back with him to Jerusalem.

Comments by Kamil, Atherton

NC281546Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil stated after his meeting with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Alfred Atherton today that the talks are continuing in order to narrow the gap between Egypt and Israel and that this will take time. The U.S. assistant secretary of state will return to Israel with the Egyptian viewpoint.

Kamil added that Mr Atherton presented Israel's proposals. Egypt's views regarding the declaration of principles now center on the Palestinian problem and total withdrawal from all the Arab territories. He said that he explained the Egyptian point of view regarding Israeli settlements to Mr Atherton and that Atherton affirmed the U.S. position that the establishment of settlements is an obstacle in the way of peace.

Mr Atherton stated, on the other hand, that good, principled talks were conducted regarding the proposals for a declaration of principles. He said: It would not be a good idea for me to say what took place at every meeting or encounter, because we want to continue our mission in a serious manner and reach agreement on a declaration of principles as soon as possible.

Mr Atherton added that he discussed the issue of settlements and that the Egyptian foreign minister explained his country's position on this issue. Atherton said he affirmed his country's position on this issue. This position has been made public before. He added that the Palestinian problem is still the most difficult part with regard to the declaration of principles. The talks between Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil and Alfred Atherton will be resumed tomorrow morning.

Atherton, Kamil Press Conference

NC281700Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1538 GMT 28 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 28 February--U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Alfred Atherton said after his meeting with Egyptian Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil today that the U.S. position regarding the question of Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories has not changed--it is against the establishment of settlements.

Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil asserted that Israel's choice of this particular time to declare its position regarding the settlements--when Atherton is holding talks on the declaration of principles--is an extremely serious matter. Atherton and Kamil made these statements to newsmen in comments on the talks held between the two sides today.

The Egyptian foreign minister and the U.S. assistant secretary of state held a press conference at 1520 today. It was attended by world and Egyptian press representatives, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali and U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Hermann Eilts.

At the outset of the conference, Atherton made a brief statement about his talks with the foreign minister. He said: I had very good initial talks with Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil. I briefed the foreign minister on what went on during the recent round of talks I had in Israel. We discussed in principle the Israeli proposals which I had brought with me on the declaration of principles. We will meet again tomorrow morning to discuss this matter.

Answering a question put to him by one of the newsmen, Atherton said: I said previously that it is not really useful for us to try to specify the nature of every meeting we hold or try to describe where we are in the negotiating process. He added: The process is continuing. Apparently, there is still work to do. The process is making progress and we are determined to maintain it.

Atherton went on to say: We want to achieve a declaration of principles as soon as it is approved. I do not want to predict what may happen.

Asked about the settlements, the U.S. assistant secretary of state said: We discussed the question of settlements. The Egyptian foreign minister restated Egypt's stand on this question. Atherton added: I reaffirmed our position regarding the subject of the settlements. This position is well known and has often been declared.

Asked whether the Palestinian issue continues to be a problem facing the peace process, Atherton said: Regarding the negotiations on the declaration of principles, this question continues to be the difficult part in this declaration. He added that the Palestinian problem is one of the questions to which we continue to give special importance.

A journalist asked Atherton: We understand that you have almost reached some kind of understanding on two of the six disputed points--that is, peace and security.

Atherton replied: I really cannot comment on this question.

In reply to a question, Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil said: The negotiations are continuing with a view to narrowing the gap. This will take time. As the U.S. assistant secretary of state has said, we are going to meet again tomorrow. We will give our reply to Israel with our viewpoints. I cannot say anything more.

Asked whether Egypt presented new proposals or whether it adhered to the same proposals with some amendments to them, the foreign minister said: No. However, regarding the preliminary viewpoints Atherton brought with him, we have sent our comments on them. Our proposals are still the same. The same goes for the Palestinian problem and withdrawal.

The foreign minister added: I would like to add that I explained to Mr Atherton today that the Israeli Government's choice of this particular time, when Mr Atherton is making attempts between the two sides, to decide to continue the establishment of settlements is tantamount to an extremely dangerous game. He went on to say: The United States, as well as numerous other states, has very clearly declared that the establishment of settlements is an obstacle on the road to peace. Since we are now negotiating for peace, it is really strange that the Israeli Cabinet should choose this particular time to confirm that it is hindering peace by continuing to establish settlements.

A journalist asked the foreign minister to comment on the U.S. stand. The foreign minister replied: The U.S. stand on the settlements is known. I will not comment on this.

AL-JAMASI ATTENDS MANEUVERS, ADDRESSES PILOTS

NC281936Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1844 GMT 28 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 28 February--General Muhammad al-Jamasi, deputy prime minister and minister of war and war production, today attended an advanced practical aerial training exercise during which live ammunition, including rockets and cannons, were used. The exercise was carried out at the southern military area and was aimed at determining the level of the pilots' combat training. It was also carried out to mark the conclusion of an advanced training stage.

The training included intense air-to-ground shelling of enemy targets with rocket artillery [al-madfai'yah as-sarukhiyah], participating in a dogfight, flying at low altitudes in order to dive-bomb objectives and evade enemy air defenses. In their training, the pilots used modern rockets altered by Egyptian military designers to suit circumstances such as those prevailing during modern military battles. The pilots demonstrated high combat efficiency in controlling their planes and hitting targets with extreme precision, which the commander in chief of the armed forces noted with appreciation.

The exercise was attended by Air Force Maj Gen Mahmud Shakir 'Abd al-Mun'im, commander of the air force; Maj Gen Kamal Khayrallah, the governor of Aswan; Air Force Maj Gen Muhammad Nabih al-Masiri, chief of staff of the air force; and senior air force commanders.

At the outset of the training exercise, the planes that were to participate in the operation were lined up on the airbase tarmac. The various formations of these planes then began to turn in circles and in complete turns during which the pilots demonstrated their ability to control their planes. The airbase commander explained the various training stages and the targets set out for the pilots to attack. Then followed shelling with live ammunition, dogfights at different altitudes, the interception of enemy planes, the hitting of an enemy airport in less than 1 minute and the pursuit of enemy planes.

During this training exercise, in which a large number of combatants participated at the same time, the pilots showed high combat efficiency and precision target hitting.

After the exercise, the commander in chief of the armed forces addressed the pilots and officers at the base. The commander in chief said he was delighted with with the high level attained by the pilots, as illustrated in the course of the training exercise. He said: I want to mention two important points of which I am extremely proud:

1. The level of training. I am delighted with the level of training I have seen today. I was happy, and even overjoyed, when I learned about the number of hours which every pilot has flown since he joined the air force.

Gen Muhammad al-Jamasi said that the preparation of pilots is not as easy matter. The preparation of a combat pilot is a difficult matter. He has to go through long stages of continuous hard training to attain the effectiveness that will enable him to enter battle and succeed in it by his actions, capabilities and control of the aircraft. There are many other factors an airman must have.

General al-Jamasi expressed his admiration for the pilots' extensive training in night flying at various altitudes. He said: We hope, of course, that you will constantly attain higher standards during your service in the air force units.

2. The standard of technical efficiency and the relative serviceability of the aircraft. General al-Jamasi pointed out in this respect that the type of aircraft used in today's training is not used in many countries, but the efforts of the men and the resolve of the technicians have enabled them to attain their present high standard of technical efficiency.

Addressing the pilots, the commander in chief of the armed forces said: Every one of you must maintain his good health and physical fitness in order to be able to fly as long as possible during his military life. He said that both the pilot and the aircraft are required, and both of them must be maintained. With the skill of the pilot and the aircraft we can achieve greater aims.

General al-Jamasi concluded his speech by saying: We entered the October 1973 war with this type of aircraft. The Egyptian pilots succeeded in dealing effective blows to the enemy with this type of aircraft. He expressed the hope that the spirit which prevailed during the October war will continue so as to raise the combat capability of the air force, which is an important element in the armed forces. General al-Jamasi then distributed citations and prizes to the first class pilots and technicians in the base. He then had lunch with them.

INTERIOR MINISTER COMMENTS ON HOSTILE PLANS

NC281826Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1610 GMT 28 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 28 February--Interior Minister Maj Gen Nabawi Isma'il has announced that the Arab rejectionist states, the Palestinian rejectionist forces and international communism have formulated a conspiratorial plan of sabotage to be implemented against Egypt at home and abroad in the wake of President Anwar as-Sadat's historic peace initiative. He said that the Interior Ministry immediately moved to foil the plan after having received enough clear information to guarantee that the ministry would be able to abort the plan.

In a speech this afternoon at the Cairo Rotary Club, Maj Gen Nabawi Isma'il said that this plan is aimed at organizing assassinations of some Egyptian personalities abroad, exploding bombs in our embassies, hijacking Egyptian planes and enabling a number of terrorists to surreptitiously enter Egypt to plan assassinations and acts of sabotage in Egyptian installations.

The minister of interior added that operations to set off explosives in some Egyptian installations abroad have indeed been discovered and foiled. He said the Egyptian authorities have taken the necessary measures to protect Egyptian personalities and installations at home and abroad.

Maj Gen Nabawi Isma'il pointed out that the assassination of martyr Yusuf as-Siba'i was part of this plan. Major General Isma'il said: Although he knew that plots were being concocted against him, martyr Yusuf as-Siba'i went to Cyprus to discharge his noble humanitarian mission of serving the Third World peoples. Maj Gen Nabawi Isma'il also said in his speech that in the phase of democratic transformation being led by President Anwar as-Sadat, the role of the police is to abide by the legitimate political moves and to impartially protect the exercise of democracy by the various parties.

The interior minister emphasized that although the police are neutral, this does not mean they will remain silent over the agent and rancorous forces, such as the entrenched right and the agent communist trends. He said the police have adopted a new method of confronting these groups by liquidating [tasfiyatiha] and stopping them one by one within the framework of the supremacy of the law.

Maj Gen Nabawi Isma'il explained that the reason for the terrorist designs which are concocted against us is the patriotic policy line which President Anwar as-Sadat has strictly pursued since he assumed his responsibility. Speaking of the role played by the police in the economic life, he said that the police provide the appropriate atmosphere for bringing about the success of the economic open-door policy and providing the reassurance needed to attract Arab and foreign capital for investment in Egypt.

OFFICIALS TO ATTEND TERRORISTS TRIAL IN CYPRUS

NC010657Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0622 GMT 1 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 1 March--AL-AHRAM says today that the Egyptian Justice Ministry will send two officials to Cyprus to attend the trial of the two terrorists who killed late Yusuf as-Siba'i on 18 February. The paper adds that an Egyptian plane will fly to Cyprus to bring back the Egyptian plane which was hit during the Larnaca airport battle and that the Egyptian military attache in Nicosia and the two Egyptian wounded soldiers who stayed behind because of their serious wounds are expected to return on the same plane.

VICE PRESIDENT MUBARAK RETURNS FROM RABAT

NC241559Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1550 GMT 24 Feb 78 NC

[Excerpts] Cairo, 24 February--At 1700 today Vice President Muhammad Husni Mubarak returned to Cairo from Rabat following a 3-day visit to Morocco. In a statement on arrival, Husni Mubarak said he had gone to Morocco to brief King Hassan II of Morocco on the latest developments in the Middle East situation. He added that Egypt has alwasy been eager to acquaint King Hassan with actual developments in the area.

The vice president said that his discussions with King Hassan II also dealt with the recent events at Larnaca airport in Cyprus. Mubarak said that Morocco's stand on these events will be defined on the basis of the extent to which Cyprus responds to the request for handing over the murderers to Egypt. Concluding his statement, Husni Mubarak said he is carrying an oral message from King Hassan to President as-Sadat and that he will submit a report on his visit to Morocco to President as-Sadat.

Mubarak Reports to As-Sadat

NC251322Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 25 Feb 78 NC

[Text] President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat received Vice President Husni Mubarak in Ismailia at noon today. The radio correspondent has learned that the vice president conveyed to the president an oral message from His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco concerning the present situation. The message expresses the support of the government and people of Morocco for Egypt's position, their complete understanding of the efforts to promote the peace process in the Middle East and their support for Egypt's position on the recent events in Cyprus and the steps which Egypt has taken in this connection. The vice president briefed the president on the results of his visit to Morocco and the talks he held with His Majesty King Hassan II.

Source Comments on Visit

JN281037Y Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 28 Feb 78 pp 1, 15 JN

[Text] Cairo--An informed Arab diplomat has described Egyptian Vice President Husni Mubarak's visit to Morocco and the urgent talks he held with King Hassan II as extremely important on the Arab and international levels. This diplomat said Mubarak's visit to Morocco came as a surprise. Mubarak was not accompanied by journalists because the Egyptian-Moroccan talks dealt with subjects of common concern which the sides do not want to disclose now. This source said that, according to reports on the talks, there is complete Egyptian-Moroccan political, diplomatic and military coordination. The source said: Important results from the talks can be expected in the near future.

SALIM MEETS WITH SUDANESE VICE PRESIDENT AT-TAHIR

NC261412Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT 26 Feb 78 NC

[Excerpt] Abu Sunbul, 26 February--Prime Minister Mamduh Salim and the Sudanese Vice President and Foreign Minister ar-Rashid at-Tahir laid the foundation stone today for the Salam [peace] and Al-'Ubur [crossing] villages. The prime minister gave the green light for the digging of As-Sadat Canal west of the High Dam Lake. Members of the Egyptian side and the Sudanese side accompanying At-Tahir, who arrived in Abu Sunbul this morning for the purpose, participated in the ceremony of laying the foundation stone.

Statement on Integration Talks

NC271401Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Feb 78 NC

[Text] The joint statement on the meeting of the higher committee for integration between Egypt and Sudan was issued today. The meeting was held in Abu Sunbul under the chairmanship of Egyptian Prime Minister Mamduh Salim and Sudanese Vice President and Foreign Minister ar-Rashid at-Tahir to discuss the establishment of an integrated area on the border between the two countries.

The two sides denounced the despicable crime against the life of martyr Yusuf as-Siba'i. The two sides condemned all those who took part in this terrorist action. They demanded the imposition of just punishment on the perpetrators.

The statement declared the committee's support for the efforts of President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat and President Ja'far Numayri for the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East on the basis of total withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967 and the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination. The committee asserted that joint action by the Nile Valley people represents a solid basis for the establishment of Arab solidarity.

The two sides called for the continuation of efforts to defend the freedom and security of Africa in the face of increasing political and military foreign intervention, to support the liberation movements in southern Africa, Namibia, Zimbabawe and the Horn of Africa against the forces of domination and terrorism and to support the nonalined group of states, the Islamic Conference and the international organization.

The statement notes the importance of establishing the integrated area, which consists of the Aswan Governorate in Egypt and the Northern Province in Sudan, as an example of the realization of economic, social and cultural integration by virtue of the projects which can be established in this area and which can lead to the strengthening of social relations among the residents of this area.

The joint statement said further that the committee approved decisions providing for the freedom of movement of citizens and goods inside the integrated area, implementation of transportation and communication projects in it and making a comprehensive survey of its human and natural resources within the framework of the development plans in the two countries. The foremost of these decisions is the issuance of open movement permits, the regulation of the use of the two local currencies of the two countries, the reduction of the river transportation fees, the speeding up of the building of the road to serve the area, the simplification of measures for trade exchange in the area and the strengthening of the joint popular action in the integrated area.

The two sides asserted that direct contact between the local authorities in Aswan and the Northern Province will achieve the best conditions for the success of the grand integration project. Ar-Rashid at-Tahir and the Sudanese delegation left Abu Sunbul this morning at the conclusion of the meetings of the higher committee. They were seen off at Abu Sunbul airport by Prime Minister Mamduh Salim and the ministers.

YUGOSLAV PRESIDENT SENDS MESSAGE TO AS-SADAT

NC272200Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2053 GMT 27 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 27 February--MENA has learned that Yugoslav President Josip Broz Tito has sent a message to President Anwar as-Sadat and that the message deals with matters of interest to the two countries regarding the nonalined states group as well as the latest developments in the Middle East situation. It has been learned that the message was handed to Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil by the new Yugoslav ambassador in Cairo, Bozovic, during their meeting tonight. Ambassador 'Atif an-Nawawi, director of the East European Department in the Foreign Ministry, attended the meeting.

YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR MEETS KAMIL, COMMENTS ON CYPRUS

NC2722017 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2100 GMT 27 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 27 February--Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil this evening met with Yugoslav Ambassador in Cairo Bozovic. After the meeting the Yugoslav ambassador told journalists that the discussions during the meeting were extremely useful and dealt with the role Yugoslavia can play to expedite a comprehensive and just solution in the Middle East area based on the resolutions adopted by the nonalined states group and the United Nations. He said Yugoslavia and Egypt are bound by relations of friendship and strong ties.

Asked about Yugoslavia's position on Egyptian-Cypriot relations, the Yugoslav ambassador said it is natural for Yugoslavia to be concerned about any dispute between two nonalined states. He added: We believe that Egypt and Cyprus will find a solution to their problems.

PRIME MINISTER RECEIVES GREEK AMBASSADOR

NC2820277 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2018 GMT 28 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 28 February--Prime Minister Mamduh Salim today received Ioannis Yiannakakis, the Greek ambassador in Cairo.

FOREIGN MINISTER RECEIVES ITALIAN AMBASSADOR

NC2716107 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1548 GMT 27 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 27 February--Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil today received Italian Ambassador in Cairo Gian Ferretti. The discussions during the meeting dealt with the recent events in Cyprus.

It has been learned that during the meeting the Italian ambassador expressed his country's sorrow over the painful incidents that had taken place in Cyprus.

AS-SADAT TOURS SUEZ CANAL, INSPECTS CANAL WORK

NC2715417 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Feb 78 NC

[Excerpt] This afternoon President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat toured the Suez Canal by boat and inspected the work to deepen, expand and dredge the canal. The president was accompanied on the tour by the director of the Suez Canal Authority, Engineer Mashhur Ahmad Mashhur, and the head of the parliamentary bloc in Ismailia Province, Engineer 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman. During the tour President as-Sadat instructed Engineer Mashhur that the current work on deepening and expanding the canal must be completed on schedule.

CAIRO REPORTS U.S.-EGYPTIAN LOAN AGREEMENT

NC2717557 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Feb 78 NC

[Summary] An agreement under which the United States will grant a $250-million loan to Egypt was signed at the Economy Ministry today. The loan will be used to finance the imports of basic commodities and spare parts for the industry, transport, communications, health, electricity and agriculture sectors. Economy and Economic Cooperation Minister Dr Hamid as-Sayih and the U.S. ambassador in Cairo, Hermann Eilts, signed the loan on behalf of Egypt and the United States, respectively.

FRENCH PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER MEETS WITH OFFICIALS

JN261440Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1310 GMT 26 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 26 February--Taha Yasin Ramadan, the Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and housing minister, today met with Jean-Pierre Fourcade, adviser to the French president. During the meeting, they discussed cooperation between Iraq and France in the domain of equipment, building and exchange of experience.

Ramadan said: In view of our good relations with France, we hope it will participate in the construction sector in Iraq and in introducing modern mechanization in this field.

Fourcade expressed pleasure at the opening of the Iraqi-French equipment week yesterday and said that devoting this week to machinery and technical equipment is one of the new means for deepening relations of friendship and for developing them in the interest of the two countries.

The French official who arrived in Baghdad yesterday also met with Sa'dun Ghaydan, RCC member and communications minister, and discussed with him means for developing cooperation between the two countries in the domains of posts, telecommunications, ports and aviation.

Concludes Visit

JN271217Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 27 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 27 February--Jean-Pierre Fourcade, adviser to French President Giscard d'Estaing, left Baghdad this morning following a 2-day visit to the Iraqi capital. During his visit, the French official held meetings with a number of Iraqi ministers on the means to develop cooperation between the two countries in the housing, telecommunications and planning fields.

Fourcade said that his talks also dealt with the possibility of France contributing to a number of Iraqi development projects.

IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD

JN260945Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0920 GMT 26 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 26 February--Abbas Ali Khalatbari, Iranian minister of foreign affairs and head of the Iranian side to the Iraqi-Iranian Joint Ministerial Committee for Economic and Technical Cooperation, arrived here today at the head of a delegation on a visit of several days.

In a statement following his arrival, Khalatbari said that during the committee meetings he will exchange views with Iraqi officials on joint issues so as to strengthen relations between Iraq and Iran. He added that these relations "are fortunately close and good." He affirmed that during the committee meetings, a new base for further developing Iraqi-Iranian relations will be created.

'Izzat Ibrahim, member of the RCC, interior minister and head of the Iraqi side to the meetings of the Iraqi-Iranian Joint Committee for Economic and Technical Cooperation, was at the head of those who received the Iranian minister and delegation.

It will be recalled that during the meetings which have been underway since Wednesday, five subcommittees have been discussing Iraqi-Iranian cooperation in the fields of oil and gas, agriculture and irrigation, trade and consular relations, as well as the holy places. These subcommittees--headed by Trade Ministry Under Secretary Mahdi 'Awdah and Iranian Economy Ministry Under Secretary (Ahmad Kors)--drew up a draft agenda of the joint committee meetings scheduled to begin here later today.

Meetings Begin

JN261740Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1725 GMT 26 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 26 February--The meetings of the Iraqi-Iranian Joint Committee for Economic and Technical Cooperation began today. The Iraqi side was headed by 'Izzat Ibrahim, RCC member, while the Iranian side was headed by Foreign Minister Khalatbari.

The committee will discuss development of cooperation between Iraq and Iran in the domains of oil, gas, agriculture, irrigation and the holy places.

INDIAN AIR FORCE COMMANDER ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD

JN251720Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1655 GMT 25 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 25 February--Indian Air Force Commander General H. Moolgavkar arrived in Baghdad this evening at the head of a delegation on a 5-day visit to Iraq in response to an official invitation. He was received at the airport by the air force and air defense commander and senior officers.

Received by Al-Bakr

JN281028Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0950 GMT 28 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 28 February--President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr today received General H. Moolgavkar, commander of the Indian Air Force, on the occasion of his visit to Iraq. The meeting was attended by the air force commander and the Indian ambassador in Baghdad.

INDIAN-IRAQI FRIENDSHIP DELEGATION ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD

JN250750Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 25 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 25 February--A delegation of the Indian-Iraqi Friendship Society headed by (Mahra Badra), chairman of the society, arrived here this morning on a visit of several days to Iraq as part of a tour of several Arab countries.

In a statement to INA following his arrival, (Badra) said that the visit is aimed at holding disucssions with officials and the Union of Friendship Societies in Iraq on strengthening the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the Iraqi and Indian peoples. The delegation will familiarize itself with Iraq's achievements under the leadership of the Ba'th Party.

(Badra) affirmed the Indian people's support for the Arab people's issues and struggle against imperialism and Zionism. He said that the entire Indian people and their political parties take interest in the Palestinian people's cause.

Received by Ba'th Official

JN271513Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1330 GMT 27 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 27 February--'Abd al-Fattah al-Yasin, Regional Command member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and chairman of the Iraqi-Indian Friendship Society, today met with the Indian-Iraqi Friendship Society delegation headed by (Mahra Badra), chairman of the society.

Al-Yasin welcomed the friendly Indian delegation and praised the traditional relations between Iraq and India. He also expressed his hope for the development of these relations in the interest of the two countries. In his talks, Al-Yasin stressed the important role played by friendship societies in publicizing people's casues, pointint out the task of the Indian-Iraqi Friendship Society in acquainting the friendly Indian people with the issues of the Arab struggle, foremost of which is the Palestinian question.

During the meeting, (Badra) expressed the solidarity of the Indian people and Indian progressive forces with the issues of Arab destiny and the Palestinian question in particular. He added that the Indian people will continue their support for these issues, proceeding from historic Arab-Indian relations, foremost of which are those relations with Iraq.

SOMALI OFFICIAL IN BAGHDAD FOR TALKS ON HORN

JN251719Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 25 February--Hamad Sulayman 'Abdallah, member of the Executive Bureau of Central Committee of the Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party, arrived in Baghdad this evening at the head of a delegation on a visit of several days to Iraq.

The Somali official stated that he will discuss with Iraqi officials current international developments, particularly those concerning the situation in the Horn of Africa.

Delivers Message to Al-Bakr

JN261140Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT 26 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 26 February--President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr received a message here today from Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre. The message was conveyed by Ahmad Sulayman 'Abdallah, member of the Political Bureau of the Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party, who arrived in Baghdad last night. During the meeting current developments in the Arab homeland and the situation in the Horn of Africa were discussed. The meeting was attended by Sa'dun Shakir, member of the Ba'th Party Regional Command and of the RCC, and by the Somali ambassador in Baghdad.

Concludes Visit

JN271202Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1050 GMT 27 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 27 February--Ahmad Sulayman 'Abdallah, member of the Political Bureau of the Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party, and the delegation accompanying him left Baghdad today following a 3-day visit to Iraq. While in Iraq 'Abdallah conveyed a message to President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr from Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre. In a statement to INA prior to his departure, 'Abdallah said that the message deals with the relations between the two fraternal countries, current Arab issues and developments in the Horn of Africa.

MINISTER DESCRIBES OIL AS EFFECTIVE ECONOMIC WEAPON

JN251335Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1240 GMT 25 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 25 February--Tayih 'Abd al-Karim, member of the RCC and minister of oil, has said that following the nationalization of the foreign oil companies, Iraq's oil policy has witnessed a major turning point in the rational investment of oil resources in the interests of the national development plan.

During his meeting here today with the heads of the Iraqi diplomatic missions in the Western and socialist states, North America and Japan, 'Abd al-Karim said that this trend was an embodiment of the Ba'th Party's national and regional conferences on building a new society.

'Abd al-Karim explained that oil is an effective economic weapon in changing the economic structure. "It is a weapon used by the revolution in Iraq in its battles against colonialism and imperialism," he added.

The oil minister's meeting with the Iraqi diplomats was one of a series of meetings with officials in Iraq organized by the Foreign Ministry for the heads of diplomatic missions.

Describes Oil Plans

JN281452Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1325 GMT 28 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Tayih 'Abd al-Karim, RCC member and oil minister, has stated that the 1976-1980 national development plan is aimed at reducing the oil factor in the Gross National Product to 50.6 percent in the final year of the plan.

In a statement to this week's issue of the magazine ALIF BA', the minister said that depending mainly on oil will lead to dangerous and negative results. He added that the plan considered the importance of the oil sector in the economy and that it is aimed at achieving an average annual growth of 15.5 percent in order to allow the other economic sectors to reach the same level as the oil sector. The minister pointed out the main aims of the oil sector plans for the next 5 years: to increase work in the geological survey of the Iraqi territories, to increase the number of oil rigs by 15 percent annually, to increase the work in oil exploration about 25 percent annually and to achieve a high level in drilling, exploring and in technology transfer. The oil plans are also aimed at increasing production in proportion to the oil reserves capabilities and to the ability of the national economy to absorb oil revenues, by implementing the national development plan, meeting the requirements of the national struggle and supporting brothers and friends. Therefore, he added, new oilfields will be developed, production of the present oilfields will be raised and coordination between production demands and transportation will be effected.

The minister said: The oil plan is also aimed at improving the refineries in accordance with the most recent methods, raising the output of the present refineries and building new ones to export oil byproducts.

On the exploitation and industrialization of natural gas, the minister said this will be expanded and will be used in producing electric power. Gas liquefaction factories will be built, the minister added. The planning council has recently decided to build two factories for gas this year, one in the north and the other in the south. The minister said that the first stage of the gas project in the south will be opened shortly. The project includes collecting the gas, separating water from it and then sending it through pipes to the gas factory in the south and also to other projects, such as the petrochemical complex and the iron and steel complex.

The northern project includes collecting the gas from the northern fields, sending it to the gas factory and then to the sulphur and phosphate fertilizer projects and to local consumers. The minister emphasized the importance of the petrochemical industries in meeting the requirements of the local industries through our reliance on oil byproducts.

ARAB WRITERS CALL FOR STRIKING AT IMPERIALIST INTERESTS

JN240935Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 24 Feb 78 JN

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 24 February--The extraordinary conference of the Arab Writers Union called here last night for striking at the interests of imperialism, foiling its plots and toppling its agents in the Arab homeland.

A political statement issued by the conference last night at the end of its 3-day meeting said that the anti-U.S. imperialist stand is the criterion of a healthy stand toward the national issues.

Writers unions of nine Arab states participated in the conference. The conference's political statement says that the political situation in the Arab area in light of As-Sadat's traitorous visit to occupied Palestine prompts the creation of an anti-Zionist, anti-imperialist front as an urgent necessity in this phase to confront the plotting of the imperialist forces.

The statement affirms the significance of regaining the initiative by the Arab patriotic and progressive forces and of mobilizing all forces to wage the battle against the Zionist enemy and regain the occupied Arab areas. The statement points out in this connection that despite all the concessions made by As-Sadat, the Zionist stand has confirmed that the battle cannot be decided without the continuation of all forms of struggle, foremost of which is the armed struggle.

The statement also calls for releasing the resources of the Arab masses as a prerequisite for a strong Arab position. It says that this can only be done through allowing democratic liberties and enabling the nationalist and revolutionary forces to speak up freely.

The statement calls for releasing the Arab writers and literary figures who are detained because of their patriotic stands and their views, which are hostile to reaction and imperialism.

The statement calls on the Arab writers to resist the policy of As-Sadat's regime and the capitulatory line through the adoption of a firm Arab stand capable of going beyond the phase of reacting, to reach a pan-Arab, progressive, and strategic stand capable of protecting the homeland from the imperialist-reactionary onslaught.

The statement affirm support of the Palestinian resistance movement and the need for protecting it against the plots concocted against it. It also calls for opening all the borders for the Palestinian resistance to operate so that the torch of the Palestine cause which As-Sadat is trying to extinguish might continue to blaze.

The statement confirms the previous resolutions passed by the conference regarding freezing the membership of the Egyptian Union of Writers and Literary Figures because its leaders have gone along with the traitorous and treacherous policy of As-Sadat and have publicized the deviant policy of As-Sadat's regime--a policy aimed at isolating Egypt, entrenching the aggression and recognizing the enemy.

The conference passed a resolution to publish the writings of martyred Arab and Palestinian writers, including the writings of the two martyred writers Kamal Nasir and Ghassan Kanafani.

The conference also decided to form a committee to hold contacts with the Union of Asian and African Writers.

The conference recommended following up the questions of the writers and literary figures detained in the Arab homeland and working for their release. It also called on the member unions to give the question of liberty a special significance and to act in confronting any violation of liberties.

At the end of its meetings, the conference elected Shafiq al-Kamali secretary general of the union by secret ballot. Muhammad Khalifah at-Talisi, president of the Union of Libyan Writers, was elected deputy secretary general. The representatives of Morocco, Lebanon, Algeria, Yemen [not further identified] and Tunisia were elected assistants to the secretary general.

The conference formed a special committee to sort out the votes after the representatives of Iraq, Syria and Lebanon announced their candidacy for the post of secretary general. The sorting out of votes led to the election of Shafiq 'Abd al-Jabbar al-Kamali as secretary general, since he won five votes, while the head of the Syrian delegation won two votes and the head of the Lebanese delegation won only one vote. Following the sorting-out process, the Syrian delegation announced its withdrawal from the conference as a result of its failure in the elections.

Prior to the election of the secretary general and the choice of the headquarters of the union, the head of the Syrian delegation threatened to withdraw if he were not elected secretary general and if Damascus were not selected as the headquarters of the union. The conference decided to select Baghdad as the headquarters of the union.

At the conclusion of the conference's meeting, the new Secretariat General of the union held a meeting to decide the purviews and duties of the five assistants to the secretary general.

CHRISTIANS REFUTE REPORTS ON RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION

JN280849Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 28 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 28 February--Two Christian organizations of Iraqi Assyrians have vehemently condemned a misled group of traitors from our homeland who recently sought political asylum in the United States, falsely claiming that the Christians in this country are persecuted because of their religion.

In a statement released here today, the two organizations said that the claims of this misled group, which has no connection with the soil of this homeland, are merely lies and fabrications thought up by the imperialist circles.

The two organizations said: We declare to the entire world that we enjoy all rights and perform our religious rites freely under the canopy of our revolution and its leading party, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

The two organizations asserted that "our people are united to defend the revolution and its great gains and to thwart any attempt to harm them."

AD-DUSTUR CRITICIZES EGYPT FOR ANTI-PALESTINIAN MEASURES

JN010858Y Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 1 Mar 78 pp 1, 13 JN

[Editorial: "No Burdened Soul Can Bear Another's Burden"]

[Text] When the Egyptian authorities declare war on Palestinians living in Egypt and at the same time try to make peace with Israel, they must not expect the Arabs, and particularly the Jordanians, to bless their steps or acquiesce to their actions.

When a country like Egypt with 5,000 years of "civilization," as As-Sadat says, takes primitive measures against a people who sought refuge from Israeli tyranny, then it is the right of the Arabs to question this "civilization," because civilization is, above all, a code of behavior.

When Egypt emulates Israel in applying the principle of "mass punishment" on the Palestinians--a principle which has been condemned by the whole world--then it is the right of the Palestinians to mourn the demise of Arab morals and Islamic characteristics.

In several articles in the past, this newspaper has warned the Egyptian Government against being misled by anti-Arab factionalists [shu'ubiyun] who want to isolate Egypt from the rest of the Arab nation, and has advised wisdom, tolerance and far-sightedness in handling the implications of the regrettable incident which took the life of the late Yusuf as-Siba'il. We were not able to imagine that matters would quickly deteriorate to the point where angry street cries would become government policy and a political basis for dealing with the Palestinians.

President as-Sadat, who is religious, often reads in his prayers the words of God which say: "No burdened soul can bear another's burden." Therefore, how can he permit his government to burden all the Palestinian people with the consequences of a single act committed by two persons who claim to be Palestinians?

Let the Egyptian Government show us one "civilized" government which has taken a similar course. U.S. ambassadors were killed in Cyprus, Sudan and Lebanon, but the United States did not even sever its relations with those countries. It also did not censure anyone for the assassinations other than those who planned and carried them out.

Palestinian groups have carried out operations in several other countries. The latest was the assassination of Sayf Bin Ghabbash in the United Arab Emirates. None of these countries condemned the Palestinians, deprived them of their livelihood or expelled them from its territory.

We are citing all these examples for our Egyptian brothers so they will know how rational and "civilized" countries react to individual crimes.

If we have any hope left that the hate campaign against Palestinians in Egypt will be curbed, it is in President as-Sadat himself.

We are not saying this for the sake of the Palestinians, who because of their many tribulations and sufferings are ready to face any disaster no matter how great, but for the sake of Egypt as well as Egyptian prestige and history. We do not want people one day to say things which should not be said about Egypt.

AR-RA'Y ON JORDAN'S POSITION ON PEACE TALKS

JN270804Y Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 27 Feb 78 pp 1, 12 JN

[Editorial: "Leave Jordan Alone"]

[Text] The arguments among Israeli leaders about Jordan's position on the negotiations have revealed a strange phenomenon. While Moshe Dayan is saying that Jordan's nonparticipation has hampered the progress of the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations, former Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin declares that it is Israel's intransigence that has closed the door to Jordanian participation, and, even if Jordan participated, it would not get anything at all.

If the positions of the government and the opposition in Israel are so obviously contradictory to one another, why, then, the big uproar at this particular time about Jordan's position and about the need for its participation in the negotiations from which it will get nothing, according to Rabin's own testimony?

In his interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM, Prime Minister Mudar Badran outlined Jordan's position on all aspects of the Middle East crisis. That position is firm. It has not changed and will not change because it is based on national and pan-Arab principles on which there can be no compromise.

It seems Israel is not yet aware of the dimensions of the Jordanian position. It also seems that other parties share Israel's "unawareness," as is obvious from the continuous uproar about the need for Jordan's participation in the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations.

The strange thing is that those who are so interested in expanding the framework of the negotiations have never thought of introducing radical changes into Israel's intransigent position to enable Jordan and others to participate in the negotiations to achieve real peace based on Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the recognition of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people.

The failure of the parties concerned with a solution to the dispute in the area to put real pressure on Israel to force it to abandon its intransigent position is no excuse to expand the framework of the negotiations by forcing others to join under abnormal conditions. On the contrary, this failure should be an incentive to search for other effective means to bring pressure to bear on Israel to make it change its position, which conflicts with the requirements for peace in the area.

Therefore, why do they not leave Jordan alone and try instead to find other effective means to influence Israel if they really want just and lasting peace in the Middle East?

REGENT RECEIVES TEXT OF SOMALI PRESIDENT'S CABLE

JN282000Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Crown Prince Hasan the regent today received the text of the cable sent by Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre to the Arab heads of state through the Arab League. The cable explained the serious circumstances through which the fraternal Somali Republic is passing. The Somali president called upon the Arab states to support and assist the Somali Republic to enable it to repulse foreign aggression and defend its territories. This, he said, is in accordance with the Arab League charter and the joint Arab defense agreement. The Somali president affirmed that the aggression against Somalia will also affect the whole Arab nation.

UNESCO COMMITTEE FOR OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES RECEIVED

JN281959Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Feb 78 JN

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan the regent received in his office at the royal court this afternoon the UNESCO factfinding committee for the Occupied Arab Territories under Mr (Paul Mark Henry). The meeting dealt with collecting data on the educational and cultural situation in the occupied Arab territories in Jordan, Syria and Egypt. The meeting was attended by Mr 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, information minister and chief of the Executive Bureau for the affairs of the occupied territories.

CROWN PRINCE HASAN RECEIVES U.S. MUNICIPAL DELEGATION

JN281958Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Feb 78 JN

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan the regent received at the royal court this afternoon a delegation representing a number of municipal councils in the United States. His highness reviewed with the delegation the situation in the West Bank since the occupation and the harassment of the kinfolk in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip by the occupation authorities. His highness also reviewed the Middle East situation and the obstacles erected by Israeli intransigence to the achievement of a just and comprehensive solution to the Middle East crisis.

His highness also replied to a number of questions asked by the members of the delegation. His highness explained the Jordanian stand on the current attempts to reach a declaration of principles which will be a basis for a comprehensive and just solution to the Middle East problem. He said that Jordan insists that such a declaration should include complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, the right of the Palestinian people to decide their own destiny and guarantees of security for all the states in the region.

ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR TO LEBANON LEAVES AMMAN AFTER TALKS

JN281109Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1000 GMT 28 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 28 February--Mohamed Yazid, Algerian ambassador to Lebanon, left Amman yesterday following a 2-day visit to Jordan, during which he met with Crown Prince Hasan the regent and conveyed a message addressed to His Majesty King Husayn from his brother Algerian President Houari Boumediene. While in Jordan Yazid met with Hasan Ibrahim, minister of state for foreign affairs, and briefed him on the outcome of the recent summit conference in Algiers. They also exchanged views on the means to consolidate Arab soldiarity in the next stage, on current developments in the Middle East and on the efforts to achieve an all-out solution of the Middle East problem and to achieve a just peace.

COMMANDER IN CHIEF SPEAKS ON JORDANIAN-SPANISH FRIENDSHIP

JN242127Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 24 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Staff Lt Gen ash-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, has stated that a deep friendship exists between His Majesty King Husayn and His Majesty King Juan Carlos of Spain.

His excellency the commander in chief expressed the hope that this friendship will also cover the military sphere and that a number of the Spanish Army commanders will visit Jordan soon as part of an exchange of visits. The commander in chief, who is currently visiting Spain, has visited a number of military institutions and war factories there.

LEBANESE FRONT HEARS AIMS OF PARLIAMENTARY MARONITE BLOC

NC282016Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1610 GMT 28 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Beirut, 28 February--The Lebanese front, which consists of rightwing Maronite leaders, held its weekly meeting today. Part of the meeting was attended by the four-member committee stemming from the parliamentary bloc of independent Maronites in the Chamber of Deputies. The committee briefed members of the front on the aims of the formation of this Maronite bloc, its political work program and the results attained to date through contacts with some quarters so as to prepare the political atmosphere in order to achieve national detente.

Political sources close to the bloc stated that the bloc attaches great importance to the meeting held with the Lebanese front today because of possible results which might encourage the bloc to continue its task and to seek the unification of the Lebanese on the fateful issues facing Lebanon; However, the results could also be adverse to the new bloc. These sources pointed out that the bloc's leaders are indignant about the propaganda campaign which some quarters close to the Lebanese front have started to wage against individual members of the bloc in an attempt to strip them of their status of Maronite representation and to distort the bloc's reputation by implying that its motivations are not Lebanese and that its aim is to withdraw the privilege of Maronite representation from the Lebanese front in order to weaken it.

These sources quoted the bloc's leaders as saying that during the war they preferred to be neutral, but that their action became necessary after there was peace in the country, and then there appeared the recent disturbing indications of the possibility of the renewal of acts of violence by small factions in an attempt to draw all parties into a bitter conflict while the gap is still wide between the Lebanese front and the bloc. These sources added that the bloc of Maronite deputies is not intended either to substitute for the Lebanese front or to take away its political role, but it is intended to find a common denominator, inasmuch as it consists of moderate Maronite factors. This can be the basis which will lead to a solution of the Lebanese tragedy and to a new formula for the new Lebanon which will not express the victory of any side over another but a victory of Lebanon in its entity.

FOREIGN MINISTER BUTRUS LEAVES BEIRUT FOR DAMASCUS

NC281023Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 28 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and Defense Affairs Fu'ad Butrus left Beirut for Damascus at 1100 today for talks with senior Syrian officials on the relations between the two countries. Minister Butrus will spend the night in Damascus and will resume his contacts and discussions in the Syrian capital tomorrow, Wednesday.

AS-SAFIR SUSPENDED FOR 2 DAYS FOR CENSORSHIP VIOLATION

NC251613Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1533 GMT 25 Feb 78 NC

[Excerpt] Beirut, 25 February--The Lebanese general security director issued a decision today suspending the newspaper AS-SAFIR for 2 days because it contravened the press censorship law by publishing a frontpage article without first presenting it to the censor.

FU'AD BUTRUS ARRIVES IN DAMASCUS, MEETS WITH KHADDAM

JN281245Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 28 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, this afternoon received in his office Fu'ad Butrus, Lebanese deputy prime minister and foreign and defense minister. Butrus arrived in Damascus this morning on an official 2-day visit.

Received by Al-Asad

JN010555Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 1 Mar 78 JN

[Text] At 2115 yesterday President Hafiz al-Asad received Fu'ad Butrus, Lebanese deputy prime minister and foreign and defense minister. The meeting was attended by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, and Maj Gen Naji Jamil, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command.

Butrus conveyed to President al-Asad a message from Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis. President al-Asad asked Butrus to convey a message to Sarkis. During the meeting all aspects of the situation in Lebanon were discussed. They also reviewed the situation in the Arab area.

MILITARY DELEGATION'S ARRIVAL IN MOSCOW REPORTED

JN272128Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 27 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Maj Gen Hikmat ash-Shihabi, chief of staff of the Army and Armed Forces, arrived in Moscow this evening at the head of a military delegation on an official visit to the Soviet Union. He was received at the airport by the first deputy of the Soviet Chief of Staff, a number of senior Soviet officers, Syrian Ambassador in Moscow Jabri al-Kafri and the members of the Syrian Embassy in Moscow.

The SANA correspondent reports that Major General ash-Shihabi will hold talks in Moscow with Soviet military officials aimed at strengthening the defensive capabilities of the Syrian Arab Republic.

SED DELEGATION ARRIVES IN DAMASCUS FOR 4-DAY VISIT

JN271656Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 17 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--An SED delegation headed by Paul Verner, member of the Politburo and Party Central Committee secretary, today arrived in Damascus for a 4-day visit to Syria at the invitation of the Ba'th Party National Command. During its visit the delegation will hold party and political talks with a Ba'th Party delegation.

The head of the SED delegation has praised the relations between the two friendly countries, which are based on the joint struggle against imperialism. He affirmed that his country stands on the side of Syria's just struggle against Zionism and imperialism. The head of the delegation further said that the talks he will hold during this visit will give new impetus to the development of the relations of friendship on long-term bases.

At the end of the visit an agreement on mutual cooperation will be signed between the SED and the Ba'th Party for 1978-79.

Begin Talks

JN280725Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 28 Feb 78 JN

[Text] The first round of talks between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party delegation led by Comrade Dr Fawwaz Sayyagh, Ba'th Party National Command member and head of the Foreign Relations Office, and the SED delegation led by Comrade Paul Verner, member of the SED Politburo and Central Committee secretary, was held in the National Command building last night.

The talks centered on the relations of friendship and cooperation between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the SED, and between Syria and the GDR in all economic, political and cultural spheres. The two sides stressed the need to strengthen and better these relations. The two sides also exchanged views regarding issues of mutual concern to the two countries and parties.

Comrade Verner emphasized the firm attitude of the SED and the German people in support of the struggle of the Arab people for the sake of establishing a just and lasting peace through complete withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and guaranteeing the inalienable and national rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to determine their future and to set up an independent state on their soil. He also asserted the SED's opposition to the recent steps of the Egyptian regime aimed at achieving separate agreements in the service of imperialism and Zionism and against the interests of the Arab masses. Comrade Verner also expressed the appreciation of the SED and the German people for the struggling role being played by Syria to form a genuine front of steadfastness and confrontation--a role manifested during the conference of steadfastness and confrontation in Tripoli and Algiers.

Dr Sayyagh explained the significant accomplishments achieved in Syria under the Ba'th Party in all social, economic and political spheres. He emphasized the firm and principled course of the Ba'th Party to continue the struggle against the imperialist and Zionist schemes, against As-Sadat's capitulatory steps and the policy of separate and partial solutions As-Sadat is pursuing, for the sake of setting up an Arab front of steadfastnesss to confront As-Sadat's treasonable policy and foiling its consequences, and for liberating all the occupied Arab territories and insuring the inalienable and national rights of the Palestinian people, above all their right to determine their future and to set up an independent state on their soil under the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Comrade Sayyagh also expressed the Ba'th Party's appreciation for the SED's attitude in support of the Arab people's struggle and their just cause.

RADIO ASSAILS ANTI-PALESTINIAN ACTIONS OF AS-SADAT

JN271425Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 27 Feb 78 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] It seems that the Egyptian regime has begun implementing another step in the conspiratorial scheme directed against the Arab nation, especially against the Palestinian issue. As-Sadat initiated the implementation of this scheme during the visit he paid to the occupied territory last year and the subsequent meetings and discussions between Israeli and Egyptian officials in Jerusalem, Cairo and Ismailia.

The new step consists of the Egyptian regime's intention to disintegrate the unity of the Palestinian ranks preparatory to liquidating the Palestinian issue for good, in the interest of the Zionist enemy and at the expense of the Palestinian people. Thus, As-Sadat will have carried out the commitments he made to Washington and Tel Aviv. The head of the Egyptian regime continues to make one concession after another to prove his ties with the imperialist and colonialist circles which are hostile to the Arab nation. After the exposure of his cards and intentions, As-Sadat took advantage of certain helpful conditions and participated in setting up an Egyptian-Israeli alliance under U.S. supervision. This alliance will work to strike at Arab solidarity, disperse Arab efforts and cover up his capitulatory initiative and the concessions which accompanied it, so that the Middle East problem turns into a problem of the settlements, for which Washington, Tel Aviv and Cairo are currently making steady efforts to find a solution. Thus, As-Sadat will have prepared a suitable climate and escalated his campaign locally and in the Arab sphere against the Palestinian Arab people and the PLO leadership. He will then devote his time to disintegrating the unity of the Palestinian ranks as he has done to Arab solidarity. As-Sadat is trying to achieve this because he has come to realize that this unity, which is supported by the steadfastness and confrontation front led by Syria and supported by world progressive forces, is quite capable of foiling his conspiratorial capitulatory course and of containing his attempts to consolidate the Zionist occupation of Arab territories and to disavow the Palestinian Arab people's legitimate national rights.

The Egyptian regime's attempt to disintegrate the Arab struggle in general and the Palestinian struggle in particular and to obstruct the efforts aimed at creating an Arab front of steadfastness and struggle based on Syria will not succeed or survive. The Arab masses defined their stand when As-Sadat expressed his desire to visit the occupied territories. They rejected the defeatist course which the imperialist and colonialist circles, in collusion with the Cairo rulers, want to impose on the Arab nation by various means. These masses have the power to foil anything which may harm the Arab people or undermine their dignity. With their steadfastness and confrontation the masses have always managed to throw As-Sadat's regime, as well as Washington's and Tel Aviv's schemes, into confusion. They have managed to prevent the implementation of separate deals between the Egyptian regime and Israel at the expense of the struggle of the entire Arab nation. These masses, which are supported by the world national and progressive forces, will continue thanks to their tough stands to confront As-Sadat's initiative and results with a view to foiling them together with the anti-Arab alliances which have emerged from them. This will then enable international and Arab efforts to be devoted to the establishment of a just and durable peace in the Middle East in accordance with the UN resolutions.

PRESIDENT AL-ASAD RECEIVES FRG PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION

JN271635Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 27 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--At 1530 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received the FRG parliamentary delegation headed by (Leo Ernst). The meeting was attended by Dr Muhsin Bilal, chairman of the Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee of the People's Assembly, and by the FRG charge d'affaires in Damascus. (Leo Ernst) expressed the delegation's pleasure at visiting Syria and at the talks held with the Parliamentary speaker and the members of the Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee.

The president spoke to the delegation members, welcoming them. He also explained Syria's attitude toward the attempts being made in the area to impose capitulatory solutions on the Arab nation, stressing Syria's steadfastness in the face of such attempts and Syria's keenness on establishing a just peace based on Israel's complete withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the recognition of the Palestinian Arab people's rights.

The talk also dealt with relations between Syria and the FRG. The head of the delegation expressed thanks and appreciation for the president's talk and stressed the delegation's and the FRG officials' eagerness to understand the Arab attitude and to strengthen relations between the two countries.

Received by Assembly Speaker

JN261848Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1730 GMT 26 Feb 78 JN

[Excerpts] Damascus, 26 February--People's Assembly Speaker Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi received at 1230 today the FRG parliamentary delegation under (Leo Ernst).

The head of the FRG delegation extended an invitation to Mr al-Halabi to visit the Federal Republic of Germany and Mr al-Halabi gratefully accepted the invitation. The date of the visit will be fixed later.

Received by Foreign Minister

JN271335Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1220 GMT 27 Feb 78 JN

[Excerpts] Damascus, 27 February--'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, received in his office at noon today the FRG Parliamentary delegation currently visiting Syria.

The SANA correspondent has learned that the members of the FRG Parliamentary delegation have affirmed that after they return home they will discuss in the Bundestag the subject of recognizing the PLO.

ECONOMY MINISTER RECEIVES CUBAN DELEGATION

JN251338Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1255 GMT 25 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 25 February--Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi today received a Cuban economic delegation which is currently visiting Syria, led by (Amadio Blanco), director of Africa and the Middle East of the Cuban Foreign Trade Ministry. During the meeting they reviewed relations of economic cooperation and trade exchange between the two countries in preparation for concluding an agreement on the exchange of agricultural and industrial produce during the coming visit to Syria by the Cuban foreign trade minister.

PRESIDENTIAL ENVOY LEAVES FOR GULF WITH MESSAGES

JN281235Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 28 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Dr Adib ad-Dawudi, political adviser to President Hafiz al-Asad, left Damascus today for Riyadh to deliver a message from President al-Asad to His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. Ad-Dawudi will leave tomorrow for Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and the UAE to deliver similar messages from President al-Asad to the heads of those fraternal states.

ALGERIA

SCIENTIFIC PROTOCOL SIGNED WITH SOVIETS

LD282300Y Algiers Domestic Service in French 2100 GMT 28 Feb 78 LD

[Text] A protocol between the Secretariat of State for the Plan and the Soviet Gosplan was signed. The ceremony was chaired this evening by Abdallah Khodja, secretary of state for the plan at his ministry. The agreement will govern the exchanges of experience and the scientific relations between the two central planning bodies. It also provides for establishing a special subcommission entrusted with planning problems within the Grand Algerian-Soviet Government Commission. The Soviet delegation led by the member of the Gosplan Collegium (?Gorobyev) will leave Algiers tomorrow after a 15-day visit to our country. During its stay the Soviet delegation examined an ensemble of achievements of Algerian [word indistinct] by visiting the northern and southern Wilayat of the country.

CUBAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER CONCLUDES VISIT

LD281352Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Feb 78 LD

[Summary] Anillo Rene, the first deputy foreign minister of Cuba, and the accompanying delegation left Algiers this morning at the end of a visit to Algeria, during which time he conducted talks with Algerian officials. The talks projected the identity of views of both sides on issues of common interest.

LIBYA

AL-QADHDHAFI, SIAD BARRE HOLD CLOSED SESSION

LD282145Y Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland in Arabic 2115 GMT 28 Feb 78 LD

[Excerpt] Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the great 1 September revolution, and Siad Barre, the Somali president, held a closed session of talks this evening. Talks also began between the Somali and Jamahiriyah sides.

TUNISIA

NOUIRA SPEAKS ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ARAB COOPERATION

LD271609Y Tunis L'ACTION in French 21 Feb 78 pp 3-4 LD

[Apparent text of Prime Minister Hedi Nouira's 20 February speech at 24th session of Arab League Economic Council in Tunis: "Establishment of Inter-Arab Economic Cooperation Depends on Responsible Political Will"]

[Excerpt] Ladies and gentlemen, this session of the Arab League Economic Council is very important insofar as it aims to study the question of the investment of Arab capital within the Arab homeland. This capital has accumulated in Arab oil-producing countries since the 1973 price increases at a rate which has outstripped the capacity for domestic investment. Hence the accumulation of excess capital, especially in foreign banks in the form of deposits or investments, and we must ask ourselves seriously and entirely objectively about the outflow of this excess Arab capital, despite the risks of monetary erosion stemming from inflation and fluctuations due to devaluation, not to mention the possibility of the introduction of legislative measures affecting these funds, taken in the interest of the receiving country or under the pretext of restoring the balance of payments or any other possible alibi of a political nature.

We do not believe that the outflow of Arab capital demonstrates the Arab capitalists' perference for investment outside the Arab countries, but that it is due rather to the difficulties which might be encountered in investing the Arab countries and which stem from the investment climate, profitability studies, infrastructures, living conditions and financial and banking structures.

There is no doubt that the Arab countries which export capital are convinced that the best way of using their capital is to invest it in the Arab homeland, at the service of overall Arab development and for the realization of reciprocity and shared collective security.

For their part, the countries importing capital are keen to eliminate obstacles to the inflow of Arab capital into their countries. Initiatives have been taken to encourage Arab investment both at a collective level--such as the agreement on the distribution of capital among Arab countries, the agreement on the settlement of disputes and the Arab organization guaranteeing investments and joint Arab finance funds--and at a national level--such as legislation encouraging local finance investments. These modest initiatives have allowed some countries to secure official aid for establishing enterprises whose impact on national economic development is evident.

But the influx of Arab capital has not reached the level hoped for by the Arab countries. Thus they have been forced to turn to the world finance market to secure loans on draconian terms in order to finance their vital development projects.

We believe that there is scope for Arab capital-exporting countries to increase the financial capacity of the Arab joint and national funds so that these funds will devote most of the capital available to supplying credit specifically for developing the grass-roots infrastructure, which constitutes both the foundation and the springboard for an economic upsurge. Without this infrastructure it would be impossible to attract private investments. Apart from providing financial support for these funds, the wealthy countries are invited to become more and more involved in joint projects and to secure the necessary financial means to establish, develop and consolidate them.

We are convinced that such action is easy to undertake, as long as we Arab countries as a whole promptly make up the shortcomings inevitably hidden by the joint agreements to encourage and insure investments and also as long as at a national level we complete the legislative and organizational framework for Arab investments.

I must not omit insisting on the importance of the Arab financial and monetary market as an effective factor in encouraging the circulation of Arab capital among the Arab countries. However, such a market could not be created overnight but only gradually, through the stimulation of existing Arab financial markets, the creation of modern ones and the establishment of coordination among themselves initially and then with international financial markets, which would permit the mobilization of Arab reserves through stock issued by economic and financial companies and enterprises. I do not believe that there is any need now to recall the beneficial effect that a greater number of enterprises, feasibility studies and projects could have on the indirect strengthening of the Arab financial and monetary market.

Nevertheless, the direct circulation of capital within the Arab world cannot take place now without recourse to foreign currencies, on account of the obstacles stemming from the nature of Arab currencies and the extent of the currency restrictions in force in the Arab countries.

It would perhaps be more appropriate to encourage the circulation of capital through the standard Arab dinar, adopted as the basis for transactions among member countries of the Arab Monetary Funds.

Ladies and gentlemen, Tunisia, being among the countries eager to secure the means for investment and being aware of the responsibilities stemming from this decision, has undertaken to establish a clear policy to encourage capital investments, in accordance with a formula which takes into account both the interests of the country and those of the investors. Among the main foundations of this policy I will mention the care we have taken in establishing and maintaining the grassroots infrastructure in the country, despite the state's modest resources and our pressing need to direct investments toward directly productive projects.

This decision stems from our conviction that the grassroots infrastructure and collective equipment constitute an essential precondition and a vigorous stimulus for both domestic and foreign investments. Thus, we have always made great and increasing efforts to build and modernize the road network, to develop various means of communication and to develop ports and airports. Although we have not yet entirely fulfilled our ambitions in this field, we can nevertheless say that in Tunisia the investor no longer encounters any major difficulties in this respect.

We have also undertaken the establishment of institutions authorized to guide and aid investors. In this context I will mention the Industrial Finance Agency and the Tourism Finance Agency, whose role consists of apportioning industrial and tourist areas and combating all forms of land speculation, whether industrial or tourist. Indeed, this speculation constitutes one of the main obstacles emphasized in the documents before you today.

We have moreover created an Investment Promotion Agency. Its task is not merely to examine and accept projects within a period of not more than 1 month but also to supply all information and details regarding investment opportunities in Tunisia. Furthermore this body is the only intermediary for the investor.

We have taken care to insure that these bodies are complementary, in order to avoid duplication of effort and difficulties and delays in taking and implementing decisions.

Moreover we have undertaken to publish a comprehensive law defining the obligations the investor must fulfill and the rights and privileges he enjoys in various fields; fiscal, financial, banking and social, which are reflected in substantial and encouraging exemptions and advantages.

Although the advantages of this law apply to all investors without exception, we sincerely hope that our Arab brothers will play the major part in carrying out the projects for which the institutions have been set up and this law passed.

I believe that the establishment of comprehensive inter-Arab economic cooperation depends on one essential factor, and that is the serious political desire to work together to build our common future. This cooperation cannot succeed or produce the desired results unless we cooperate on the level of decisive political choices in each of our states.

I am convinced that the need for cooperation between us is now more vital and imperative than it has ever been, living as we do in an age of challenge when colossal economic units are being formed.

We must seize the historic opportunity we now have--thanks to the Arab world's resources which now give it considerable weight in the balance of world economic powers--to build a balanced and developed society which we can raise from a wealthy society to an evolved and hence viable and lasting society. Therefore, in all honesty and responsibility, we can see that the main obstacle to bilateral or multilateral inter-Arab cooperation has so far been the profound impact of political relations and the difficulties surrounding them, which have proved transitory in most cases. In actual fact we have not yet succeeded in protecting inter-Arab cooperation from all the political disputes and conflicts which might arise between Arab countries.

However, experience has shown that other countries, not far from us, are already aware of an extremely important fact, and that is that economic cooperation cannot succeed unless it is protected from political vicissitudes. Thus, despite the acute crises which have affected their political relations and sparked off devastating wars at one point, these countries have succeeded in transcending their purely political conflicts and in working to consolidate their economic ties. This has enabled them to set up an impressive economic organization recognized as important in the world and which, moreover, constitutes the best starting point for solving their problems and for a definite rapprochement which could move to political integration in the future.

We should use the same sort of springboard to build our Arab entity by strengthening our cooperation in agreed fields and wiping out our differences, even if only temporarily, so that they will gradually disappear as our cooperation in other fields is consolidated. In this way our peoples will come to understand and trust each other more and their interests will be ever more closely bound. This undertaking is well within our capabilities in the Arab world, provided we manage to face our future with determination and objectivity and avoid any passion and defeatist prejudice which go against the very principle and existence.

It is my dearest wish that your meeting should produce decisions and recommendations which could form a decisive base for solid foundations of inter-Arab cooperation and action for the benefit of all our peoples.

NOUIRA GIVES MADRID PAPER INTERVIEW ON RECENT CRISIS

LD281347Y Madrid ABC in Spanish 24 Feb 78 p 22 LD

[Antonio Alferez interview in Tunis with Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Nouira: "Prime Minister Nouira: The Crisis Has United Bourguibism"--date not given]

[Text] [Question] Mr Nouira, could you draw up a moral, social and political balance sheet of the events of "black Thursday"?

[Answer] If it were possible to draw up a balance sheet from these viewpoints, as in economics, I would have to say that it is not too brilliant. However, there is something very important: the very positive way in which public opinion has reacted.

[Question] There are those who believe that the 25 January clashes have created an insurmountable breach between the Destourian Socialist Party (which holds power) and the Tunisian General Federation of Labor [UGTT] Trade Union Federation. Do you consider the crisis to be insurmountable?

[Answer] By no means, since we have nothing against the UGTT or against trade unionism. Our dispute--if there is one--is because we have been attacked.

It is a matter of a minority of leaders who have made use of the trade union organization. But we are by no means opposed to the trade union movement.

[Question] To conclude the assessment of the events of "black Thursday," will the crisis help to consolidate the party or will it make the differences among the various political "families" more dramatic?

[Answer] As I have already said, the political balance sheet is, in my opinion, positive, because it has provoked a healthy and vigorous reaction on the part of the Tunisian people. I would even say that it has provoked a uniting reaction within the party. Our party is unlike any other. It is a movement in which many tendencies manifest themselves. We are a crucible rather than a party. And if there are shades of opinion with respect to the implementation of a policy, we are in complete agreement about the policy to be pursued. If there are shades of opinion, it is with respect the way in which to implement that policy.

As far as the objective is concerned, nothing has changed. Furthermore, there are no shades of opinion with respect to what has just happened--an actual attack against the idea of the state--a state which is still young (22 years old). In this respect the reaction has been healthy. Everybody has given priority to the preservation of the state, over and above certain minor shades of opinion with respect to the rate of implementation or adoption of one measure rather than another.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, what is Tunisia's stance with respect to the Sahara crisis? What is the reason for its strict neutrality? Somebody has suggested the possibility of Tunisian mediation.

[Answer] The problem has become so delicate that we have preferred to maintain a stance not of a mere observer but of a country which, if requested, would be prepared to do something. It is impossible to be a mediator if nobody requests it. It is impossible to mediate unless there is a chance of dialog.

[Question] It is clear that our two countries profess mutual sympathy; there is no problem, either past or present between us. But despite everything, exchanges of every kind (between two countries so close to each other) are minimal. Perhaps all this is because the economies of Spain and Tunisia are not complementary but competitive. What is your opinion, Mr Nouira?

[Answer] There is no obstacle to close cooperation between Tunisia and Spain. I would venture to say that we have already begun economic cooperation; it is not very active, but I believe that we can prepare the ground for lasting cooperation.

The balance of trade is favorable to Spain; our deficit is considerable. Spain is the ninth-ranking industrial country in the world, and on a recent visit I was able to ascertain what you have achieved. We can cooperate; Spain can find scope for this cooperation in the economic and technological fields.... And this would eventually result in closer political cooperation. The EEC--a body which Spain is seeking to join as a full member and with which Tunisia is already linked through an association agreement--could provide the opportunity for further cooperation.

I have had the opportunity to meet with your Prime Minister Suarez, with whom I talked during a vacation visit to Spain. We found during our somewhat informal conversation, in which Minister Marcelino Oreja also took part, that we largely took the same view of the issues. At any rate we speak the same language, and that is very important.

[Question] Mr Nouira, "after Bourguiba, the institutions" is a phrase which I have heard repeatedly in Tunisia over the last few days. Any Spanish person notes this reply, quite understandably, with some skepticism. For the benefit of these skeptical readers. I would like you to explain the problems of the post-Bourguiba period.

[Answer] Spain has had to tackle a problem of transition, and these periods are in fact the most delicate. I would say that the Spanish institutions--both written and unwritten--have facilitated that transition. It has also been facilitated by the especially sensitive people heading the political, social and military sectors. The people imbued with responsibility with respect to the future behaved admirably to facilitate the transition. It was, furthermore, a success of Spanish society. The process was also facilitated by the clearsightedness of France, which, from the formal institutional viewpoint, averted a political or institutional vacuum.

In Tunisia we find ourselves in a similar situation. From the institutional viewpoint, the transition has been settled by legislation: The post left vacant by the head of state will be filled by the prime minister. Whether this solution is good or bad is of little importance. A solution is better than no solution. I would like to remind you of Justinian's rule: "The man matters little; it is the institution that counts." Bourguibism is essentially an ethic, a way of analyzing situations, a form of sociopolitical conduct. Its results are so positive that I find it difficult to see the Tunisians not wanting to continue with this system. If Tunisia enjoys a certain international prestige, it is due to this conduct and this way of analyzing situations. Bourguibism has brought considerable benefits: There is no reason for the people to turn away from it. There are certainly weak points in any human work. Let us leave to future generations the task of improving those weak points. But let us preserve all that has been achieved and whose value has been proven.

Tunisia wants to be a country of stability and take root in our ancient and modern history. We are descendants of Carthage and fellow countrymen of Jugurtha and Saint Augustine. We are an Arab Moslem country open to the Western world. Tunisia is all that plus Bourguibism. It is a great burden, but if anybody wants to make a clean sweep of all this, it is because his shoulders are not strong enough to carry it. That is why we want to be evolutionists and not revolutionaries. Revolution is destructive and time is required for rebuilding. We want to be a country of middle classes, close to the people and knowing their difficulties and their aspirations. We want greater prosperity, peace abroad and stability inside the country. And if we experienced that notorious Thursday, 26 January, it is because there are forces which do not want this stability, because we are a bad example for some and an irksome testimony for others.

L'ACTION CRITICIZES OPPOSITION TO BOURGUIBA GOVERNMENT

LD281613Y Tunis L'ACTION in French 23 Feb 78 p 1 LD

[Moncef Chihi editorial: "Denials and Alliances"]

[Text] Some people are trying to gain support for the idea that Tunisia's contractual policy does not fulfil the masses' needs for justice and democracy. It is no coincidence that these experts in systematic denigration are the very people who took part in drawing up the first draft of the progress contract at the eighth Party Congress. Their inconsistency is born of opportunism based on sordid calculations and which sacrifices truth and morality in the cause of dubious interests.

It is not surprising therefore that these turncoats are involved in schemes, blackmail and compromises. In many respects they display the classic behavior of the mentally subnormal and politically illiterate.

History will never excuse these people who, on the pretext of serving democracy, are really only concerned with regaining their lost power. This behavior is positively immoral.

Our citizens are not deceived as to the value of the meaningless slogans adopted by these "liberals," who are really just greedy reactionaries who have no hesitation in sinking to the level of Tunisia's worst enemies.

Therefore, they are now in league with the devil. However, the compromising behavior and embarrassing alliances which they are trying to disguise by misleading statements and denials cannot deceive us any longer. Others have certainly followed the same path, and everyone knows what treachery they have indulged in, since they too have sold their souls to the devil.

The Tunisians certainly do not forget things easily. They remember the folly of the old Destour and see a pale reflection of this in the literature of Cheikh Thaalbi's "liberal" successors. Nor have they forgotten the socialist-communist coalition with the protectorate forces--a coalition which aimed to destroy the national movement led by Bourguiba. Finally, they have not forgotten the many reactionary attempts to destroy the movement of progress and social emancipation which Bourguiba's party follows.

The Tunisians are firmly convinced that the opponents of progress are only trying to weaken Tunisia so that foreign powers can seize control over its destiny. That is why our masses are determined to make a united stand against any attempt to turn back the pages of history or curb Tunisia's irresistible surge toward progress and the achievement of the greatest possible degree of socialist justice.

Events have shown that the state is the target of evil forces because it guarantees security, stability and progress for all. The present generations are not prepared to renounce their historical role and are determined to defend all that the nation has gained and perpetuate the ideals which have brought about the dawn of an age of progress and democracy for the benefit of all.

ICFTU LEADER VISITS ACHOUR, URGES FAIR TRIAL

LD281455Y Brussels LE SOIR in French 24 Feb 78 p 3 LD

[Unattributed report: "Delegates from International Confederation of Free Trade Unions see Achour in Tunis"]

[Text] An ICFTU delegation visited Tunis 19 through 21 February to demand the release of the trade unionists arrested following the violent disturbances 26 January, including the former secretary general of the Tunisian General Confederation of Labor [UGTT] Habib Achour. The delegation was headed by ICFTU Secretary General Otto Kersten, who was allowed to meet Mr Achour in the security chief's office. He appeared to be in good health. He did not complain about prison conditions and affirmed that he wanted a trial so that he could prove his innocence. The ICFTU thinks it outrageous that no charge has yet been made against these people who have been held since 28 January. At a press conference in Brussels, Otto Kersten said he was convinced that Achour and the other imprisoned trade unionists are not responsible for the 26 January disturbances and have not been involved in any political machinations. The ICFTU will inform all its affiliated organizations of the situation in Tunisia and if the trade unionists are not given a fair trial it will ask the former to approach their governments with a view to exerting pressure on the Tunisian authorities.

EGYPT SAID TO INFORM ISRAEL IT IS NOT READY FOR DIRECT TALKS

TA281616Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 28 Feb 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] Our political correspondent reports that Egypt has clearly and decidely informed Israel that it will not be prepared, at the current stage, to hold direct negotiations. The Egyptians announced that they will not even agree to the renewal of the Military Committee discussions and that their only interest at the moment is in the achievment of a declaration of principles.

Our political correspondent points out further that these words contradict what was said yesterday by the prime minister, that the renewal of the discussions by the committees was open to discussion between the two countries.

ATHERTON MISSION SAID ON BRINK OF FAILURE

TA281320Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 28 Feb 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By Yosef Harif]

[Excerpt] The Egyptian document brought by roving U.S. Ambassador Alfred Atherton containing a counterproposal for a formula for the declaration of principles is more inflexible than the previous Egyptian document. The Egyptians have not budged from their position regarding their demand for self-determination for the Palestinians and total Israeli withdrawal. If there is no move on the Egyptian side Mr Atherton's mission might fail. Today he leaves for Cairo but he is not carrying any new proposal because Israel has not changed its position.

It has been learned from political sources in Jerusalem that Mr Atherton has been asked to clarify to Egypt Israel's claim that the Egyptian position was become more inflexible in the formulation of the declaration of principles.

Yesterday Mr Atherton met with Prime Minister Menahem Begin and heard the claim that Egypt was not, in fact, conducting substantive talks on the Israeli peace plan but was entrenching itself on the Palestinian issue and demanding from Israel that it do something which Egypt knows Israel will never do: grant self-determination for the Palestinians.

Political circles stress the fact that Egypt does not even accept the U.S. formula known as the "Aswan formula" of President Carter, because this formula does not provide for self-determination for the Palestinians nor does it refer to withdrawal from all the territories.

It appears that Mr Atherton is also inclined toward the conclusion that as long as Egypt continues to demand a declaration of principles providing the West Bank to the Palestinians and demanding total Israeli withdrawal there is no chance for progress. Under such conditions the shuttle tour is being regarded as a barren effort aimed at maintaining momentum until after the prime minister's visit to Washington in the middle of next month.

DAYAN: ISRAEL ACCEPTS CARTER'S FORMULATION ON PALESTINIANS

TA280713Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 28 Feb 78 TA

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan has said that the present way of conducting negotiations between Israel and Egypt is against Israel's wishes. Dayan told the Zionist Congress that the Egyptians are not prepared to reopen meetings of the Military and Political committees despite Israel's repeated requests to do so. In addition, the Egyptians insisted on discussing the Palestinian question and the West Bank, which in Israel's view should not have priority.

Dayan said that Israel preferred to discuss outstanding issues between Israel and Egypt with the Egyptians. At Ismailia the Egyptians had said they would bring counter-proposals to Israel's peace plan, but they had not done this yet. Israel was totally opposed to complete withdrawal and the establishment of a Palestinian state. However, the government accepted President Carter's formulation that the Palestinians should be allowed to participate in deciding their own future.

Replying to questions, Dayan denied that any new settlements had been set up in the Sinai since the negotiations with Egypt had started.

BEGIN CALLS FOR RENEWAL OF NEGOTIATIONS

TA010552Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 1 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin closed the 29th Zionist Congress this morning in Jerusalem calling on the Egyptian president to allow the resumption of negotiations in both committees--the Political and the Military. He called for open-hearted negotiations, through mutual persuasion, quietly and patiently. Begin expressed the belief that in such talks it will be possible to reach agreement on a peace treaty between us and our neighbors. At the same time, he said, Israel must be prepared to say no to certain demands and this should not be interpreted as a negative approach. Whoever asks Israel to withdraw to the 1967 borders and establish a Palestinian state will be answered with an outright no.

PRESS CRITICIZES GOVERNMENT NEGOTIATING POSITIONS

TA010610Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 1 Mar 78 TA

[Review of morning press editorials]

[Excerpt] DAVAR says that the prime minister made a serious mistake when he introduced into the difficult negotiations with Egypt a new claim that makes the negotiations even more difficult and arouses some amazement in Washington. It transpires that Israel now maintains that, in its opinion, Security Council Resolution 242 does not refer to Judaea and Samaria. Against this background, as well as against the background of manifestations of inflexibility on the Egyptian side, one can assume that Atherton's present tour will not bring about a significant rapprochement in positions. At this difficult stage the last thing that Israel needs is a sophistic and hardened policy.

HA'AREZ discusses the hope expressed by the foreign minister that the settlers in the Yamit district will be able to remain in their settlements in the framework of an agreement that will include the demilitarization of the Sinai Peninsula. These remarks show how great the ideological and practical tangle is into which he and the prime minister have put Israel. The newspaper expresses the hope that in the long run the tangle will be unraveled in a manner that will maintain the settlers' affinity to the State of Israel. This hope arises from another hope that President as-Sadat will return to his original agreement about the Yamit district settlements if a solution is found to the Palestinian problem.

BEGIN STAND ON 242 SEEN AS CRUX OF TALKS DEADLOCK

TA010647Y Jerusalem POST in English 1 Mar 78 p 1 TA

[By David Landau and Joshua Brilliant]

[Text] The Israel Government's insistence that UN Security Council Resolution 242 need not apply to the West Bank is at the crux of the present near-deadlock in the peace talks, according to certain Israeli and other sources. It is also expected to be the focus of the White House discussions between President Carter and Premier Begin and their top ministers on March 14-15.

The government's doctrine on 242 came to the surface during the talks with U.S. roving Ambassador Alfred Atherton last week, and it has hung over his shuttle efforts since then.

Foreign diplomatic sources say that Israel's allegations that Egypt has hardened its stance should be seen against this backdrop. They thus imply that the hardening has been on both sides. And they add, moreover, that some of the Israeli allegations are not accurate.

Within the government coalition some uncomfortable stirrings are detectable among some of the doves, but these are not likely to be publicly aired until Begin, Foreign Minister Dayan and Defence Minister Weizman return from Washington.

In the Labour opposition, however, there is gathering outspokenness against the government's position. Former Premier Yizhaq Rabin says that Egypt's sudden realization that Israel rejects Resolution 242 on the West Bank is the major factor in the developing deadlock. Former Foreign Minister Abba Eban says that if Premier Begin had made his position on 242 clear earlier he would not have earned any favourable American or other Western comments for his peace plan.

Eban also argues that Israel may be legally and politically committed to the acceptance of 242 on all fronts, since it gave its solemn assent to this interpretation in August 1970. (It was because of this that the Likud left the National Unity government.)

But minister without portfolio (and close Begin confidant) Hayyim Landau said categorically yesterday that, "for Israel, 242 does not mean withdrawal on all fronts." He told the Jerusalem POST that this was one of the cardinal planks of the government's policy, and it would not shift on this point.

"If President as-Sadat thinks," said Landau, "that he can obtain through American pressure that which he could not get through negotiations--he is very wrong." Landau added that he hopes the U.S. would not come forward with its own proposals, since "that would not serve the cause of peace."

He said that the cabinet's failure on Sunday to announce a "freeze" on settlement, even though that was what had been expected, showed that Israel would not bow to pressure.

On the talks with Atherton, Landau said Israel was offering, and would offer in the future, changes in wording--but not in the substance of its basic positions.

Another of these basic positions is stout refusal to entertain any formula that "might lead to self-determination (for the Palestinian Arabs)," Landau added.

In the present stage of the Atherton shuttle, it is reliably learned, Egypt is proposing a formula recognizing the Palestinians' 'legitimate right to determine their own future." On the withdrawal issue, they are demanding wording that would specifically apply Resolution 242 to all fronts.

Israeli officials maintain that this represents a significant hardening of the Egyptian stance. Premier Begin on Monday publicly rejected "Egypt's demands for total withdrawal and for the creation of a Palestinian state."

But other diplomatic sources question this Israeli reading. They point out that the Egyptian demand is not specifically for a Palestinian state, and that it is well known that as-Sadat does not want a completely separate Palestinian state set up in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. They argue, too, that Egypt is not explicitly demanding total Israeli withdrawal.

These diplomatic sources contend, moreover, that Egypt cannot be said to have "hardened" its stance merely because As-Sadat in January accepted President Carter's "Aswan formula" and is now pressing for tougher wording. His acceptance of the "formula" then, they say, was conditional upon Israel's acceptance of it too. And since Israel rejected part of it, As-Sadat now felt free to revert to his own initial position.

On the applicability of 242 to the West Bank, Begin, Dayan and Weizman will plainly face solid American disapproval during this Washington visit. The administration, it is reliably learned, is already preparing a lengthy document to demonstrate that Israel is committed to the application of the resolution to all fronts. Among the evidence cited is Begin's own interpretation to this effect, in August 1970, of the resolution of the Golda Meir government's decision to implement it.

RABIN CRITICIZES BEGIN NEGOTIATION POSITIONS

TA2812327 Jerusalem HAMCDI'A in Hebrew 27 Feb 78 p 2 TA

[Text] MK Yizhaq Rabin expressed his opinion that in the present situation Alfred Atherton will not achieve anything of consequence in his shuttle diplomacy, and added that he believes in the need for Israeli-U.S. talks on a higher level.

Mr Rabin expressed the hope that the existing wide gap between the Egyptian and Israeli positions can still be bridged, and that perhaps even an agreement can be reached. However, he emphasized, without mutual concessions such an agreement will never be reached. The most important Israeli concession should be in the direction of forming an infrastructure which will enable Jordan to join the negotiations, and this will be made possible by a change in the Israeli position on the one hand and an Egyptian understanding of Israel's vital security needs on the other hand.

In reply to a question, the former prime minister said that he would like to hope that no party would set final dates and that the negotiations will indeed continue. He expressed concern that if an agreement is not reached during 1978, the chances to reach one will decrease significantly.

Mr Rabin claimed that the way in which Prime Minister Begin presented President Carter's words and his alleged backing of the Israeli peace plan was very inaccurate. According to his personal experience with U.S. expressions, whenever a U.S. President says that "this is a fair basis for negotiations," it does not mean approval of the plan, but in fact: "You have gone one step ahead, but that is not enough." There is a difference between adoption of a plan by the United States and saying that this is a fair basis for negotiations. When they say "it is a constructive step," it means that you are going in the right direction, but that it is not enough.

"I think Mr Begin either simply did not understand what was said to him in Washington and tried to turn the positive things that he heard into acceptance of his proposal, or he was wrong and as a result misled. Be that as it may, basically, what was said to him was not acceptance of his proposals."

Mr Rabin went on to say that the government and the prime minister have a wrong concept of everything with reference to the process of negotiations. When a state of direct negotiations at the highest level is finally reached, the government must present opening positions realizing that in the peacemaking process both parties compromise; one cannot approach negotiations from final positions because if each party behaved in such a way and said: "Either you accept my position or this is the end of the negotiations," then there would never have been any agreement in the world.

His impression is that there is a stiffening of positions on both sides, and that it is no wonder, therefore, that after 30 years of longing for the moment of reaching direct negotiations, the direct negotiations ultimately failed and both parties ran to Washington for mediation. At this stage it has been proved that neither party is capable of overcoming the difficulties that arose during the direct talks.

In response to a question, Mr Rabin said that both parties are equally responsible for the present deadlock. There were grave mistakes in the way the Israeli Government handled the negotiations, partly as a result of misunderstandings due to lack of experience in contacts with Arab leaders.

At this stage, it is the Israeli policy which prevents Jordan from joining the talks, Mr Rabin added, for when Jordan is told that all it can expect from the Israeli standpoint is to sign a peace agreement with the Jordan River as the border--why should it come to the negotiations at all?

HERZOG COMMENTS ON SLOWDOWN IN MOMENTUM

TA010622Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 1 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Israel's UN Ambassador Hayyim Herzog has said that President as-Sadat had to slow down his peace initiative because of his Arab neighbors. Addressing a news conference before speaking to the Commonwealth Club, Herzog said that As-Sadat found himself in an awkward position--far out in front of the other Arabs. At that point, Herzog said, he had to pull back and adjust his image. Herzog said Americans should be patient in awaiting a Middle East settlement, adding that if As-Sadat reached agreement with Israel before other Arab countries he would be sorely embarrassed.

DAYAN SAYS 'NO NEW SETTLEMENTS SET UP' IN W. BANK

TA010940Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 1 Mar 78 p 1 TA

[Text] The Foreign Ministry spokesman released the following statement yesterday:

In reply to a question on the issue of settlements in the Sinai, in Judaea and in Samaria, the foreign minister told the Zionist Congress delegates: "I do not know of any settlement set up, not only since As-Sadat's visit but ever since this government was established. When we submitted our peace proposal to Egypt, this was a package deal. We did not say that we would evacuate the Sinai on any condition. Our approach was one of a comprehensive concept that included demilitarization and the existence of Israeli settlements as a defensive strip along the border--settlements that will be defended by an Israeli civilian police force. We spoke about Egyptian sovereignty and the existence of settlements under a UN flag and without an Israeli military force. Egypt could and still can submit a different plan.

"The policy of this government is not to set up new settlements. No new settlement has been established. The government's latest decision reiterated this policy of not establishing new settlements and of only strengthening existing ones. If immigrants want to settle in Yamit they will be able to do so. If there is room in a settlement for 80 families and there are only 60 there, there is no reason why we will not add the remaining 20; and if more water is needed, we shall supply more water.

"In Judaea and Samaria it was decided at the time to set up three settlements in the framework of IDF camps. One was set up, and the government has decided not to cancel its decision regarding the other two. They will be established in due time."

WEIZMAN WILL RECONSIDER SHILO UNLESS ARCHEOLOGICAL WORK STARTS

TA281546Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 28 Feb 78 TA

[Text] Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman said today in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee that if the archeological work is not begun at once in Shilo, the cabinet will have to rediscuss the whole issue. Our correspondent Razi Barqay reports that the committee held a debate today on the issue of the Shilo settlement and during the debate it emerged that most of the committee members, including coalition members, have serious criticism of the affair of the archeological excavations in Shilo.

The defense minister said in the committee that the Shilo settlers went there without permission and that the Ministry of Defense had proposed removing them, but did not receive authorization to do so.

As stated, there was criticism of the way the cabinet had dealt with the Shilo settlers. Among the critics were MK's Yosef Rom, Hayyim Corfu, Pesah Grupper of the Likud, Shemu'el Toledano and Ammon Rubinstein of the DMC and Yosi Sarid of the Alinement. The only person who supported the settlement and the archeological excavations was MK Moshe Shamir.

MINISTER LANDAU DISCUSSES SETTLEMENTS , OTHER ISSUES

TA281205Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 28 Feb 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[Text] "Since the Likud came to power the settlements in the territories have not stopped. We shall continue settling Judaea and Samaria and we will not stop expanding the settlements in the Rafah approaches," Minister Without Portfolio Hayyim Landau said last night, appearing before members of the Herut Movement in Holon. He added that the government has for the first time decided upon urban settlement in the territories, even though that would require laying an infrastructure, which would take some time.

The minister warned that we should not succumb to pressures regarding the settlements, since that would provide an invitation to further pressure.

Landau criticized the British foreign minister, saying that the settlements are no concern of his and that a British minister should not give us suggestions, as we could similarly give him advice on the situation in Ireland.

As for the U.S. approach, Landau said: "The Americans have looked for a hook on which to hang us and have thus come upon the issue of settlements, because it is a good topic for information [campaigns]. This is not the problem in the negotiations for peace." He added that Assistant Secretary of State Atherton does not even bring up this issue in his talks in the area aimed at getting a declaration of principles.

With respect to the U.S. arms deal, Landau said that Israel will operate in every conceivable way to get out of the package deal involving Saudi Arabia and Egypt. He added that the sophisticated weapons with which these two countries would be supplied are aimed at Israel, and whoever claims otherwise is merely telling tales.

Landau attacked MK Shim'on Peres for having gone to alsburg to a meeting with As-Sadat, for his intention to go to Cairo and for saying that peace is possible within several days. "Thirty years were not enough for him, and now, within a few days he will bring peace?" he asked.

As for the continuation of the negotiations, Landau said that President as-Sadat would have to step down from the top of the pyramid to reality. He must bear in mind that Israel will never back down from its proposed peace plan, and that if it should be rejected, Israel still reserves the option of using the principles of internatinal law: if an attacker is beaten in war, the winner has the right to alter borders. There are instances where this principle has been applied.

LIBERAL PARTY CRITICIZES SHARON SETTLEMENTS POLICY

TA271743Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 27 Feb 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] The Liberal Party segment of the Likud Knesset faction today discussed the settlements issue. Practically all who participated in the discussion sharply criticized the way Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon executed the cabinet decision regarding settlements. Construction and Housing Minister Gid'on Pat said the entire cabinet is today alined against Minister Ari'el Sharon. The report by our Knesset correspondent Moshe Hakohen:

The liberal segment of the Likud faction held a discussion today on the subject of settlements, a discussion that, for various reasons, had been postponed for weeks. The participants in the discussion voiced support for the resolution that was adopted by the cabinet yesterday. At the same time, however, very strong criticism was leveled at the manner in which the cabinet settlement policy is being implemented by Minister Ari'el Sharon.

Construction and Housing Minister Gid'on Pat, who took part in the discussion, said that the towers, the buildings and the tractors which Minister Sharon transferred to Sinai without the knowledge of the cabinet and contrary to its decision, were a disaster for the State of Israel. The execution of cabinet decisions by Sharon, Pat said, was faulty and risky. A situation was created whereby one man, Ari'el Sharon, stands against the entire cabinet, and the whole cabinet is now standing against him.

Deputy Finance Minister Yehezq'el Flumin, who returned some time ago from a visit to the United States, said that Minister Sharon had blackened the face of the state by his actions in Shilo and in the Sinai. He created for the state in the United States an image of a state that lacks credibility not only in the mind of the general public and of the administration, but also within the Jewish community.

Several members reported on the talk they had with the chairman of the Knesset Security and Foreign Affairs Committee, Herut member MK Moshe Arens, who returned from a publicity trip to the United States. Arens told them, they claimed, that the archeological-mission-at-Shilo affair and the water-drilling rigs in Sinai had caused irreparable damage to Israel's status in the United States.

Even Knesset member Pesah Grupper, who is known for his hawkish views, joined the criticism of Minister Sharon and said his policy was questionable and damaging. Who needed the water-drilling towers in the Sinai? Grupper asked.

Regarding yesterday's cabinet resolution, Minister Moshe Nissim, who took part in the discussion, said it was a good resolution. Minister Gid'on Pat seconded Nissim's statement, saying that the liberals now have to support the cabinet's settlement plan, because this is now the only bargaining point left to Israel with respect to President as-Sadat, after Israel had given in to him on every other point.

The participants at the meeting understood from the ministers' statements that yesterday's cabinet resolution meant a freeze of the settlements in the Rafah approaches and no new settlements in Judaea and Samaria, except two which will be established in accordance with a prior cabinet decision.

WEIZMAN TO DISCUSS PROCUREMENT REQUESTS IN WASHINGTON

TA281153Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 28 Feb 78 p 2 TA

[Text] Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman, who leaves for the United States next week, will discuss Israel's procurement requests with leaders of the U.S. administration in accordance with promises already given by the United States. It is almost certain that the defense minister will submit Israel's security reasons against the supply of F-15's to Saudi Arabia and the supply of F-5E's to Egypt. The supply of these modern weapons to these two countries increases the overall airpower of the Arab countries and this might be used against Israel.

The defense minister's procurement list is based on clear U.S. promises from the days of the Ford administration, given by former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and which included, among other things, 250 F-16's, modern missiles and warning systems. The defense minister will accompany Menahem Begin and Moshe Dayan to the political talks at the White House. The defense minister will be accompanied by his wife Re'uma; the director general of the Ministry of Defense, Prof Pinhas Zussman; and his military secretary, Lt Col Ilan Tehila. Air Force Commander Maj Gen Dan 'Ivri, who leaves this week for the United States in order to fly an F-16, will be the first Israeli to fly this aircraft, which is still being tested. Major General 'Ivri will join the defense minister during his talks with leaders of the Pentagon.

HUSAYN WOULD RESPECT WEST BANK REFERENDUM RESULTS

TA281141Y Jerusalem HAMODI'A in Hebrew 27 Feb 78 p 4 TA

[Text] ITIM--King Husayn told people from Judaea and Samaria that he does not want to return to the West Bank in the framework of the relations that existed prior to the 6-day war and he is only prepared to return if he is explicity asked to do so by the residents. People who recently met with King Husayn told the ITIM correspondent in Judaea and Samaria on Sunday that King Husayn wants the ties between the two banks to be founded on a firm foundation and in accordance with the desire of the residents. The king did not mention the PLO during the talk.

It should be pointed out that in an earlier talk with people from the West Bank Husayn said that he did not want to return to Judaea and Samaria at this stage but only after an interim period during which there would be international rule in the West Bank culminating in a referendum, and if the residents desire Jordanian rule he would be prepared to return. When the king was asked about the PLO's function he said that there are possibilities or cooperation between Jordan and moderate circles in the PLO in the determination of the fate of Judaea and Samaria.

CABINET SUBMITS SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET FOR APPROVAL

TA272024Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 27 Feb 78 TA

[Text] The finance minister has presented to the Knesset a supplementary budget of 17.2 billion Israeli pounds. The state budget for the current fiscal year now comes to 141.2 billion pounds.

Our correspondent Zevi Kessler explains that the supplementary budget is a result of the economic upheaval and of the change in the rate of exchange of the Israeli pound. The main part of the supplementary budget goes to make up shortages in the Defense Ministry budget. This supplementary budget is not to finance new activities.

Due to the change of the currency exchange rate, state revenues have increased by 9.2 billion pounds. The additional 8 billion pounds still required for the supplementary budget will be advanced by the Bank of Israel.

NO MONEY IN DEFENSE BUDGET FOR NEW FIGHTER DEVELOPMENT

TA282005Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 28 Feb 78 TA

[Text] The Knesset committee overseeing the defense budget has decided that there is no room for including the development of the Arye [fighter aircraft] within the framework of the defense budget and that if it is decided to develop the aircraft, it will be necessary to find other sources to fund it. The committee recommended to the cabinet that the possibility be examined of finding partners for the development of the aircraft.

Committee Chairman Hayyim Bar-Lev told our correspondent Zevi Lidar that all the committee members think that the aircraft industry is capable of producing an advanced fighter for the 1980's, although the development would take 7 to 8 years. For this a great deal of money must be set aside while, at the same time, other aircraft must be bought at great expense.

BEGIN COMMENTS ON MEETING WITH UK FOREIGN SECRETARY

TA271245Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 27 Feb 78 TA

[Excerpt] [Begin--recording] I had a very good talk with the secretary for foreign affairs of Great Britain, Dr Owen. I informed him for the benefit of the prime minister, Mr Callaghan, about the stage reached now in the negotiations between us and Egypt. Those negotiations concern also King Husayn, and the British foreign secretary left my room with the feeling that he is quite satisfied with what I told him. May I say, as you put it, he is cheerful now and he will inform Prime Minister Callaghan. So we are now in the midst of the negotiations with the understanding that they should continue. Now you have a question to me my dear friend Mr Meisels. What can I do for you.

[Meisels] [indistinct question concerning the latest Egyptian proposals]

[Begin] May I say, it is a written document. Some of the paragraphs suggested to us can be negotiated by us. One paragraph is completely acceptable--it is identical in both drafts--the Egyptian and the Israeli. Some--we proposed certain changes. There are two issues which we made absolutely clear--if any factor will suggest to us at any time that we should take upon ourselves a prior commitment for total withdrawal to the lines of 4 June 1967--preceding the 6-day war--or to agree to what is termed a Palestinian state, then it should be known that these two demands are unacceptable to us and we are not committed by Resolution 242 of the United Nations Security Council to either of them. United Nations Security Council 242 does not commit Israel to such a withdrawal and the issue of the Palestinian Arabs is not included at all in 242. So this is open to free negotiations between the parties concerned. Any language which does not include such two prior commitments which are unacceptable to Israel is negotiable to us. Any other language. [as heard]

And now we made it clear before President as-Sadat arrived in Jerusalem, during the Knesset debate--if I may say so, between him and myself, and we made it at Ismailia clear, all the time this point of view of Israel was made clear to everybody concerned. [end recording]

Owen Press Conference Reported

TA271832Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 27 Feb 78 TA

[Text] British Foreign Secretary David Owen said his government has no intention of exerting pressure on Jordan to join the talks on the Middle East. Britain thinks Jordan should be left to choose the time it deems appropriate, and it is very cautious in the matter. There was, indeed, an opportunity to join the negotiations at the start of [the peace initiative of] President as-Sadat, but that opportunity is gone. Amman is now trying to see, in Owen's view, how things will develop regarding the declaration of principles. The British foreign minister was speaking at a press conference at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem.

Mr Owen said he received the impression that the problems in the Sinai could be solved and the judgment of those who negotiate the issue could be relied upon. In Judaea and Samaria and in the Golan the problems are more difficult, but there too a great deal could be accomplished for Israel's security.

On the settlements, Mr Owen said the difficult problem is whether to regard them as part of Israel; but it would be easier to find a solution if they are presented in the context of a common life between Israelis and Arabs.

OWEN ON BEGIN: 'I CAN'T STAND THAT MAN'

TA281112Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 28 Feb 78 p 1 TA

[By Dani'el Rubinstein]

[Text] During his visit to Israel, British Foreign Secretary Dr David Owen came out with some very strong words in the presence of several members of the entourage accompanying him and expressed his opinion of Prime Minister Menahem Begin. The British foreign secretary said: "I can't stand that man, he doesn't talk at all but preaches and preaches." The foreign minister was also angry that Prime Minister Begin treated him "like a child." These remarks were heard by only a small number of the British minister's companions.

There has been an uncomfortable atmosphere around the British foreign secretary's visit, especially in the wake of his severe remarks at the press conference he held in Amman prior to his arrival here. The DAVAR correspondent has learned that, among other things, Dr David Owen came to Israel because British Prime Minister James Callaghan became very angry every time Begin said that Callaghan had also praised the Israeli Government's peace plan. The British foreign secretary wished to make it clear to Begin in a delicate manner that Callaghan did not get "too excited" about Israel's peace plan and policy. Against this background, one can perhaps understand some of the British foreign secretary's severe remarks.

Yesterday morning, Owen met with Prime Minister Menahem Begin and on leaving he expressed the hope that an agreed formula would be found for a declaration of principles and that Jordan would join the negotiations. Earlier, Dr Owen met with Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman and with MK Yizhaq Rabin.

UK Embassy Denies Reported Remarks

TA281113Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 28 Feb 78 TA

[Text] A British Embassy spokesman denied the reports published in a number of this morning's papers about Dr Owen's utterances regarding the prime minister. The spokesman said that the published allegations were figments of the imagination, and that officially the British minister announced that he had been encouraged by his talk with Mr Begin.

British circles added at the same time, however, that Dr Owen thought that Mr Begin is a rigid person and that a number of his views are not likely to advance peace.

MOSHAVIM MOVEMENT DISCUSSES LEAVING LABOR PARTY

TA261333Y Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 Feb 78 p 1 TA

[By Amnon Barzila'i]

[Text] The possibility that Mr Moshe Dayan will head the Moshavim Movement, if it secedes from the Labor Party, was raised last week in a discussion behind closed doors held by heads of the Labor Party Moshavim Division.

It has been learned that former agriculture minister, Mr Aharon Uzan, proposed that an ultimatum be given to Labor Party Chairman MK Shim'on Peres to dissolve the Alinement with MAPAM, a demand which, if not met, would result in the Moshavim leaving the party.

In the discussion on the political future of the Alinement, Mr Uzan proposed that if the Alinement is not dismantled within 2 or 3 months, the Temu'at Hamoshavim proclaim the establishment of a new political body, and the three Labor Party Knesset members who represent the Moshavim form an independent Knesset faction. He said, at the same time, that the Moshavim would not join any other political grouping, neither in the Likud, nor any affiliated with it. His proposal was supported by MK's 'Amos Hadar, Rabbi Menahem Hakohen and Yehezq'el Zaka'i, as well as by the Temu'at Hamoshavim secretary general, Mr Arye Nehamkin. Former Knesset member, Mr Avraham Silberberg, was also inclined to accept the proposal. The motion was opposed by a number of leaders from new settlements, including Ra'anan Na'im, Nahum Lantz and Nissim Zawili. In the end, it was decided to accept the view of the latter and not adopt, at this stage, such a drastic measure.

Leaders Deny Plans

TA271907Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 27 Feb 78 TA

[Text] The Secretariat of the Labor Party Moshavim Division today denied the reports that it intends to establish an independent Knesset faction, together with Foreign Minister Dayan's one-man faction. At the same time it reiterated its demand that the Alinement be dissolved. Labor Party Chairman MK Shim'on Peres has announced that he is opposed to the demand. He said that there is no harm in the differences of opinion in the party as long as they do not impair its ability to adopt crucial decisions.

TWO KILLED, SEVERAL INJURED IN TEL AVIV EXPLOSION

TA010734Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 1 Mar 78 TA

[Excerpts] This morning a man and his wife were killed and several people injured in an explosion in Qehilat Lwow No 10, a single story house in Hadar Yosef neighborhood in Tel Aviv. Those killed have not yet been identified and, the reason for the explosion is not yet known.

Two of the seriously injured--Ilana and Alex Levkovitch--have been hospitalized in Beilinson Hospital. A third man, Asher Ben-Avraham was slightly injured. Preliminary investigations revealed that an explosive charge went off but the police laboratory has not yet confirmed this.

AFGHANISTAN

PRESIDENT DAUD PAYS OFFICIAL VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA

For Belgrade TANJUG reports on the 21-23 February official visit to Yugoslavia of President Mohammad Daud, including the text of the joint communique on the visit, see the Yugoslavia section of the 22 February and subsequent issues of the Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT.

BANGLADESH

ZIA TO BEGIN OFFICIAL VISIT TO UAE 6 MARCH

BK010951Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 0145 GMT 1 Mar 78 BK

[Text] President Zia is leaving Dacca for Abu Dhabi on Monday next [6 March] on a 2-day state visit to the United Arab Emirates. An official announcement says the visit is in response to the invitation of UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan. The president will be accompanied among others by his advisers on foreign affairs and petroleum and mineral resources, the foreign secretary and the chairman of the Rajshahi municipality.

PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER LEAVES FOR NEPAL VISIT

BK261246Y Dacca Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 26 Feb 78 BK

[Text] The Bangladesh presidential adviser for power, water resources and flood control, Mr B.M. Abbas, left Dacca for Katmandu today at the invitation of the Nepalese Government. Before leaving the adviser told newsmen that we want cooperation between Nepal, India and Bangladesh in the development of water resources of the Ganges for the interest of the three countries. He said Bangladesh is very much concerned about the utilization of international waters.

Mr Abbas said that there is a good prospect of cooperative development of the Ganges water among the three countries. He was carrying a message from President Ziaur Rahman to King Birendra of Nepal.

The presidential adviser was accompanied by the chairman of the Bangladesh Water Development Board. During his visit to Nepal, Mr Abbas will discuss specific ideas related to the development of the Ganges water. It may be recalled that both Bangladesh and India have agreed to study the various possibilities of augmenting dry season Ganges flow for mutual benefit.

PRC FRIENDSHIP DELEGATION ARRIVES IN DACCA

BK281552Y Dacca Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 28 Feb 78 BK

[Text] An eight-member friendship delegation from China arrived in Dacca this morning on a weeklong visit to Bangladesh. Talking to newsmen at the airport, the leader of the delegation, Mr Wang Ping-nan, said they were carrying with them the cordial feelings and good will of the people of China for the people of Bangladesh.

Mr Wang, who is also the president of the Chinese Federal [People's] Friendship Association for Foreign Countries, said the main objective of this visit is to promote friendship and understanding between the peoples of the two countries. He hoped that the current visit will further strengthen the existing friendly relations.

The delegation, which arrived at the invitation of the Bangladesh-China Friendship Association, was received at the airport by the presidential adviser for foreign affairs, Prof Shamsul Haq.

NEW BANGLADESH PARTY ANNOUNCES MANIFESTO

BK280124Y Dacca Domestic Service in Bengali 1430 GMT 27 Feb 78 BK

[Text] Announcing the manifesto of the newly formed Jatiatabadi Ganatantrik Dal [JAGODAL] in Dacca this afternoon, convener Justice Abdus Sattar said that his party believes the sole objective of the country's politics should be to safeguard our independence and sovereignty and to increase production on all fronts. He said that in view of the geographical, economic, social and historic perspective his party favors a presidential system of government. The president and parliament should be elected on the basis of adult franchise.

Justice Sattar said that the new party believes in the independence of the judiciary and in socialism based on social justice. Among other fundamental objectives of the party are the strengthening of the local government institutions, the decentralization of administrative power and a realistic and progressive educational system.

The JAGODAL will follow a foreign policy based on sovereign equality, nonalinement and friendship. He further said that the party will struggle against expansionism, hegemonism and external threats of any form.

INDIA

FINAL KARNATAKA ASSEMBLY ELECTION RESULTS REPORTED

BK271005Y Delhi ISI in English 0935 GMT 27 Feb 78 BK

[Text] The following is the final party position in the Karnataka Assembly elections according to official sources, reports SAMACHAR:

Total number of seats: 224.

Results declared: 224.

Congress (I): 152.

Janata: 58.

Congress: 2.

CPI [Communist Party of India]: 3.

Others and independent: 9.

Press Comments

BK281410Y Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1050 GMT 28 Feb 78 BK

[From review of the Indian press]

[Text] The ECONOMIC TIMES refers to the clean sweep by the Congress led by Mrs Gandhi in the Karnataka Assembly election and says that it has been beyond expectation. In a house of 224, it has captured 152 seats. The Congress has been virtually dessimated as a consequence of which Mr Brahmananda Reddy has resigned.

The TRIBUNE observes: With the electoral victory of the Congress led by Mrs Gandhi in Karnataka, the main Congress Party presided over by Mr Brahmananda Reddy until yesterday and the inheritor of the undivided party symbol and the party flag has begun to face a grim future. It has been almost totally wiped out in Karnataka and become near extinct in Andhra.

The STATESMAN remarks: Mrs Indira Gandhi has won a major victory in Karnataka. Her party has annexed 152 seats in the Assembly, just 12 short of what the undivided Congress had won in the 1972 Assembly election.

The TIMES OF INDIA says: Mrs Indira Gandhi has reemerged as a formidable political figure as a result of the Vidhan Sabha [state Legislative Assembly] polls in Karnataka, Andhra and Maharashtra. This is by far the most important outcome of the elections in these three states. Nobody anticipated or could have anticipated it when the polls were announced or even during the election campaign, but the results have taken almost the whole country by surprise. It is indeed doubtful that either her supporters or she herself had expected so spectacular a victory.

The INDIAN EXPRESS comments that the resounding success of the Congress led by Mrs Indira Gandhi in the elections to the Karnataka Assembly is indeed a remarkable political development. The Karnataka verdict has implications beyond the state. Apart from the personal question of Mrs Gandhi's future, it is a fact that within a year the Janata Party has twice failed to appeal to the south.

Reddy Resigns

BK270745Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0735 GMT 27 Feb 78 BK

[Text] Mr Brahmananda Reddy has resigned as Congress president following the party's debacle in the Karnatka elections. In a letter to the general secretary of the AICC [All-India Congress Committee], he said he assumes responsibility for the defeat of the Congress in the state. Mr Reddy told the AIR [All -India Radio] correspondent that his resignation will be placed before the Working Committee tomorrow for acceptance and for appointing a provisional president.

Congress Meets

BK010928Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 1 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The Congress Working Committee has accepted the resignation of Mr Brahananda Reddy, but decided to make an announcement at its second meeting today. A provisional president is expected to be nominated. The question of reunification with the Congress-I is understood to have figured at yesterday's meeting, but the leadership is divided over the question. A decision on the subject was postponed to enable the Maharashtra chief minister, Mr Vasant Rao Patil, and other state leaders to present their views at the resumed meeting today. Mr Patil arrived in New Delhi from Bombay late last night.

NEPAL

BANGLADESH ADVISER FOR WATER RESOURCES ARRIVES

BK261532Y Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 26 Feb 78 BK

[Text] Mr B.M. Abbas, presidential adviser for power, water resources and flood control of Bangladesh, arrived in Katmandu today on an 8-day visit to Nepal. He was received at Tribhuvan Airport by Minister of State for Water and Power Mr D.P. Adhikari.

Later Mr Abbas told RSS [RASHTRIYA SAHACHAR NEWS AGENCY] that during his stay in Katmandu he will hold talks with his majesty's government officials on optimum utilization of the Ganges waters shared in common by Nepal, Bangladesh and India. Pointing out that the Ganges waters, when properly utilized, could greatly help the three countries [words indistinct] he said this great task, however, calls for understanding among them.

INDIAN DELEGATION ARRIVES IN KATMANDU FOR TRADE TALKS

BK261532Y Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 26 Feb 78 BK

[Text] The third round of bilateral talks between Nepal and India on trade and transit treaty began in Katmandu today. The Nepalese delegation to the talks is being led by the foreign secretary, Mr U. D. Bhatta and the Indian side by the Indian secretary for foreign affairs, Mr. J. S. Mehta.

The 11-member Indian delegation had arrived in Katmandu earlier today.

PAKISTAN

MARTIAL LAW REGULATIONS ON ELECTIONS ISSUED

BK281735Y Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 28 Feb 78 BK

[Text] The chief of the army staff and chief martial law administrator has issued Martial Regulations 32 and 33. Regulation No 33 says that not withstanding anything contained in any martial law regulation, martial law order or any other law for the time being in force, no person shall in any manner whatsoever, directly or indirectly, indulge or participate in political activity until the 31st of next month.

Contravention of any of the provisions of this regulation shall be punishable with rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to 7 years and with fine and for whipping up to 20 stripes.

This regulation comes into force at once. According to the regulation, political activity includes:

1. Organizing any political party, canvassing or campaigning in public or in private or propagating the cause of any political party or any politician by words, either spoken or written, or by signs or by visible representation or in any other manner or means or at any place whatsoever;

2. Violating the sanctity of a shrine or a mazhar [tomb] or any place of worship by indulging or participating in any activity which is in furtherance of any political ends or which is tantamount to propagating the cause of any political party or any politician;

3. Providing financial or any other assistance or help to any political party or a politician for any political purpose;

4. Arranging, attending or joining any procession of a political nature;

5. Making, printing, producing, publishing or distributing, directly or indirectly, any matter which is connected with or (?pertains) to furthering the cause of any political party, politician or [words indistinct] or is intended or is likely to cause sensation or misunderstanding amongst the people or which is prejudicial to the precepts of Islam or the ideology or integrity or security of Pakistan, for public peace or the national interests, or intends or is likely to cause disaffection toward the martial law administration or any martial law authorities or which is likely to cause annoyance to any person, community, race, cast, sect, tribe or to the religious sentiments of any person or body;

6. Arranging or holding any reception for any politician or for an officebearer of any political party by *inviting such person to a party* of any kind or attending or participating

in such a reception or party intended to be arranged, held or given for a political purpose or in furtherance of the cause of a political party or a politician;

7. Inviting or allowing any politician or any officebearer of a political party to attend or address any meeting or function of a bar council or a bar association or any politician or any officebearer of a political party attending such meeting or function; and

8. Uttering any word or making any remark during the course of a speech, address or answers in reply to questions at any meeting or function of the bar council or a bar association or passing any resolution which is in furtherance of any political end or which is tantamount to propagating the cause of a political party or a politician or which is intended or is likely to bring into hatred or contempt or to excite disaffection toward martial law administration or any martial law authority or to cause or promote seedlings of enmity or hatred between people of different regions, communities, races, classes, sects, tribes or between people professing different religions or to cause fear or alarm to the public or any section of the public in any manner whatsoever or which is prejudicial to public peace and tranquility or to the precept of Islam or the ideology of Pakistan or integrity or the security of Pakistan.

According to the regulation, it is not included in political activity to indulge or participate in bonafide activity connected exclusively with trade unions, labor associations, student unions, bar councils or bar associations or any other body of a similar nature and which is not otherwise repugnant to any provision of the law for the time being in force.

Martial Law Regulation No 32 cancels Martial Law Regulation No 28, which prohibited the holding of elections to student unions, bar councils and other professional bodies. However, the cancellation of Regulation No 28 shall not affect the previous operation thereof or anything done, action taken, obligation, liability, penalty or punishment incurred or proceedings commenced shall be deemed to have been properly and validly done, taken, incurred or commenced as the case may be.

Arrests Reported

OW282140Y Hong Kong AFP in English 2130 GMT 28 Feb 78 OW

[Excerpts] Islamabad, Feb 28 (AFP)--Numerous political militants and "anti-social elements" were arrested tonight, informed sources said here.

By midnight local about 100 persons had been arrested in their homes in Rawalpindi alone, the sources said.

Meanwhile, all political activity was again temporarily forbidden by order of the military authorities tonight.

The order stated that the establishment and support of a political party in any form before March 31 would be punishable by a maximum of 7 years' imprisonment with hard labor and 20 lashes.

Meanwhile, Begum Nusrat Bhutto, Mr Bhutto's wife and acting PPP president, was yesterday again put under house arrest in Lahore for a 10-day period.

BRIEFS

SOVIET CONSTRUCTION EXPERTS--Some 290 Soviet experts are expected to arrive in Pakistan this year to speed up construction and erection of the machinery of the Karachi Steel Mill. Eight hundred Soviet specialists are to be deputed at various stages of the construction of the mill. [Text] [Karachi Overseas Service in English 0930 GMT 24 Feb 78 BK]

SRI LANKA

TULF LEADER THREATENED; PARTY ALTERS CHARTER

BK2809211Y Hong Kong AFP in English 0835 GMT 28 Feb 78 BK

[Excerpts] Colombo, Feb 28 (AFP)--Police protection for opposition leader Appapillai Amirthalingam has been intensified following a threat to harm him, police sources said today.

Mr Amirthalingam is also parliamentary group leader of the minority Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) which surprisingly emerged as the largest group in the opposition following last year's general elections.

Police are conducting investigations to track down a group of youths who called at Mr Amirthalingam's office at Tellipallai in the north and demanded to see him. When his wife told them that Mr Amirthalingam was not in, the youths became abusive, threatening to harm him and blast his office.

Tamil youths viewed with disfavour the apparent conciliatory attitude of the TULF towards the new government led by Mr J. R. Jayewardene, observers said. Mr Amirthalingam has, however, emphasised publicly that the TULF has not given up its declared policy of working for the creation of a separate Tamil state.

Meanwhile, the TULF which consists mainly of three major Tamil political parties--the Federal Party, the Tamil Congress and the Ceylon Workers' Congress-- has decided to change its constitution to provide for the party to be headed by one president and have one general secretary.

When the TULF was formed in 1975, it elected a triumvirate of the leaders of the three constituent parties as joint presidents to lead the organisation. They were Mr S. J. V. Chelvanayakam of the Federal Party, Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam, of the Tamil Congress and Mr S. Thondaman of the Ceylon Workers' Congress.

Mr Celvanayakam and Mr Ponnambalam have since died and Mr Thondaman is now functioning as the only president.

Mr Thondaman, whose organisation represents workers of Indian origin in plantations in the central hills, has however shown no interest in the goal of the TULF to create a separate state for the minority Tamils who live mainly in the northern and eastern provinces.

At the next convention in April, the TULF is expected to elect a member of the dominating Federal Party as president to lead the organisation.

BRIEFS

COLOMBO PLAN COUNCIL PRESIDENT--Colombo, Feb 16 (AFP)--Dr. Lal Jayawardene, secretary to Sri Lanka's Ministry of Finance and Planning, was today unanimously elected president of the Colombo Plan Council for Technical Co-operation in Asia and the Pacific, the Colombo Plan Bureau announced. The high commissioner for India in Sri Lanka, Gurbachan Singh, had been officiating as acting president since last September. At a meeting of the council today the name of Dr. Jayewardene, 44, was proposed by Miss Ampha Phattaranawik, ambassador of Thailand and seconded by Dr. W. Howard Wriggins, ambassador of United States and Dr. H. Izadi, charge d'affaires of Iran. [Text] [Hong Kong AFP in English 1432 GMT 16 Feb 78 BK]

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

DAILY REPORT volumes are published Monday through Friday in both paper version (mailed daily) and microfiche version (mailed weekly). Annual subscription including occasional supplements is, for the first volume, $125 paper/$100 fiche; each additional area volume up to seven, $70 paper/$60 fiche; all eight volumes $575 paper/$500 fiche. Foreign subscription for the first volume $160 paper/$125 fiche; each additional area volume up to seven, $70 paper/$60 fiche; all eight volumes for $610 paper/$525 fiche. Each additional paper or fiche subscription beyond eight is $50. The volumes are: I—People's Republic of China; II—Eastern Europe; III—Soviet Union; IV—Asia & Pacific; V—Middle East & North Africa; VI—Latin America; VII—Western Europe; VIII—Sub-Saharan Africa. Back issues or single copies are not available. Allow 30 days for processing new subscriptions. Mail remittances, inquiries, and address changes to the NTIS address below.

Note: The publications of the Joint Publications Research Service (JPRS), which are sometimes cited in the DAILY REPORT, can also be ordered from NTIS in single copies or by subscription. In ordering, please cite the JPRS title, number, date, and author if applicable.

Both the DAILY REPORT and the JPRS publications are on file for public reference at the Library of Congress and at public and university libraries throughout the United States.

N T I S

National Technical Information Service
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Springfield, Virginia 22151